Dear Brethren

The reception & perusal of your communication gave us much gratification, for it furnishes us with another evidence that it is the will of our heavenly Father that his children should dwell together in unity. Every intimation that the Prince of peace is disposing his Ambassadors to see eye to eye, ought to awaken our gratitude & a cordial cooperation with yourselves in every thing which has a tendency to facilitate so desirable an object. We trust that the correspondence now commenced between our Seminaries will be continued & that it may be a source at once of pleasure & of profit to us all. Pleasure when we hear of the going forth of the great head of the church to water the dry & thirsty hill of Zion & in hearing of the sanctuary of Jehovah being crowded with anxious enquirers for the only support & comfort of sinners & profit that our souls tho many be knit together in brotherly love & that the band of union now woven may be rendered as permanent as our lives. We trust that the interchange of a letter as often as you shall think expedient, may cherish individual friendship sweeten personal intercourse & bind us closer to the cause of truth & charity. This Seminary since its first institution has held a correspondence with our sister Seminary at Hampden & which, we may say has proved truely profitable. It has pleased the great head of the church to connect our brethren of the East more immediately with the concerns of foreign & domestic mission. As many of that institution have set us a worthy & noble example as the first friends of that cause; so their correspondence often furnishes us with interesting intelligence from their brethren who are now labouring in heathen lands. If they have failed to provoke us to good works, we hope they have warned us of our too great indifference in the glorious work of conveying the glad tidings of great joy to those who are sitting in the region & shadow of death. In the light of a warm benevolent & evangelical spirit, new theological distinctions seem to be extinguished or at least to diminish to a relative size. The Theological school of the Synod of Va. which has for some years been established at Hampden Sidney under the care of the eminently pious Dr Hoge contains at present 14 students & considering the southern states we cannot but view this school as a fountain of living water springing up in a dry thirsty land. The students of that institution have for

themselves into a society for making enquiry on missionary wants & means; addressed a letter to a similar society connected with our seminary. They are convinced that such an institution is an important aid to the Theological student & that when the servants of Xt are led to ask what remains to be done, they are led to feel the motives & desire the means -

A few years since & men imagined that our country was so well furnished with the word of God that there was no room for further distribution of the inspired volumes. But what has been the result of investigation? Every similar attempt to raise the covering which silence & neglect spread over the wickedness of our own land, has astonished the scholar & impelled to action of charity. If the former members of this seminary have felt a readiness to visit our remote frontiers & to raise the banner of the everlasting Gospel in those destitute regions they ascribe it under God principally to the influence of this society for enquiry on the subject of missions. If they have heard the call it was because they listened to the voice of mount. While we slowly advance in supplying our vacant congregations, the tide of an immense population rolling to the west & south is leaving those vast regions to the still more rapid inundation of ignorance infidelity & heresy & we should constantly bear in mind that what is now neglected may never again be regained. We do indulge the hope that many of those regions will soon be visited by many from our sister Seminaries & that through their instrumentality the wilderness & the solitary place will be glad & the desert shall rejoice & blossom as the rose. Yes we look forward with pleasing anticipations to the time when the Lord by their means shall comfort Zion & build up all her waste places, when he will make her wilderness like Eden & her desert like the garden of the Lord - when joy & gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving & the voice of melody. Letters from some of the members of our former classes about 12 of whom are now on missions are calculated to awaken our sympathy & to reprove our backwardness. It is one of the brightest signs of the time that the reformed churches of Europe are so firmly united but a long

divided corrupted & wasted are fast approaching to their primitive character. Their charities begin to flow in the same channel & their incense to ascend from the same altar. The eye which watched for lurking heresy begins to brighten with hope with confidence & joy. If those eminent men who planted the gospel in Protestant States had seen mutual jealosies & animosities arise from the bosom of the mother church. many of his most pious sons (to seek for a refuge in this country) would they not say with one voice let the American churches dwell together in love, let them be one, though the families be distinct let them have but one mind. Let none attempt to break the unity of spirit, to sever the bond of brotherly love by exciting the Theological Shiboleth. when the gospel of Xt demands no defence. The heat & light of Xtian benevolence & pious zeal which has been kindled on the transatlantic altar has warmed & cherished many an American heart. When we fail to set example it is our privilege to imitate. We live in a new age. Great things are expected of us as candidates for the holy office on account of the distinguishing privileges we enjoy & the abundant means we possess of acquiring that primative requisite for a proper discharge of our duties. On whatever side we turn our eyes we behold fields whitening for the harvest. vacant congregations & destitute frontiers & a Pagan world all put in their claims. To which of the last we have turned a deaf ear we dare not say nor dare we plead our zeal for the first as an excuse no- It more becomes us to deplore the real cause, the want of an apostolic spirit that would enable us to devise & execute liberal things.

There are now 5 important schools of the Prophets which profess the same faith & nearly the same church discipline & nearly 180 candidates for the holy ministry. To each of these the cry is heard come over & help us, & the command is go ye into all the world & preach the gospel to every creature- Brethren it would be no voluntary humility were we all to take a low place- Yet we ought not to sorrow as those who have no hope. That Div Spirit who transforms the rude Savage into the

christian can inspire the ministers of Xt. with more of the temper of their Lord & Saviour. The formation of the United Missionary Society presents an interesting & important object. Will not the society make claimes upon its own members in the name of our master? & while none say. Here am I. Lord send me. Brethren on this subject. as we have nothing to wast you cannot mistake our remark. would to God that we felt its importance. You mention the establishment of Theological Seminaries as one of the signs of the times that Xt is about to do much more for Zion. Glorious things are spoken of the city of our God & we hope that the accomplishment of them may in part be effected by the exertions of the schools of the prophets. This hope deepens our interest for the best good of a sister Seminary in whose head the gospel of Xt finds a defence. May your venerable professor with his worthy associate be made loading blessings to you & lead you to the fountain of living waters, & that the Lord may send you engagedness in this work & prepare you by his grace to go forth in due time as workmen who shall not need be ashamed & that he may succeed your labours with his blessing & at last that you may receive a crown of glory which shall never fade away is dear brethren the unfeigned wish & sincere prayer of your brethren in this institution.

Signed in behalf of the students

Gilbert Morgan
James C Barnes
Ravaud K. Rodgers. } Committee in behalf of the Bro of Pr.

The above letter was directed to the Theological Seminary of New Brunswick -

Princeton March 31st 1821.

Dear Brethren

Having lately heard of your Society and that you requested an epistolary communication from us, we with great pleasure embrace this opportunity of bidding you God-speed in your "works of faith and labours of love."

We rejoice to hear that your Society is rapidly advancing the cause of Evangelical truth by disseminating little books among those to whom larger treatises are inaccessible. It is surely time for the friends of Jesus to work when the enemies of the soul bring in damnable heresies and either "deny the Lord that bought them" or his essential attributes that they may support the licentious doctrine of universal salvation. This last erroneous opinion we have heard was gaining ground in some parts of Connecticut until the Lord in his abundant mercy stopt its progress by giving you a most glorious season of "refreshing from his presence!" Who can say that the prayers of your Society for the spread of the gospel truth have not been heard, and that you are not now reaping the blessed fruits of your exertions! In connection with these remarks permit us to say that we highly approve of the method pursued by your Society, and pray that the God of truth may abundantly bless your labours. If we are rightly informed your's is also "a Society of Inquiry on Missions." This is a subject full of animating interest to the friends of Zion at the present eventful era of the world. No lover of the Redeemer and the souls of men ought to be ignorant of the present state of the whole Anti-christian world. Neither can any enlightened Christian consistently with his character be ignorant of the efforts that are making to spread the truth, nor of the success which attends those efforts. The truth is, the whole "earth must be filled with the knowledge and with the glory of God"; and those of us who make no exertion to hasten this glory, may possibly soon hear the tremendous question of our Judge "Why" stood "ye idle

all the day." — — Dear Brethren when we consider the wretched condition of the Western Indians, only in a temporal point of view; and remember how much we may have been accessory to their wretchedness - where are the tender sympathies of our nature? Where is that philanthropy which ought to lead us not only to commiserate, but to give them the blessings of civilization? But when we look at their future prospects, ought not the love of immortal souls, to animate us to exert all the powers of our souls to rescue them from eternal burnings! We have no doubt, brethren, but that you feel the importance of this subject as much as ourselves; but we mention it because we believe that we all feel to little, and too often forget how much we owe to these "Sons of the forest."

We meet for enquiry on missions once a month, at which time we listen to all the intelligence any brother may have to communicate from any part of the world; and such are the wonders of the day with regard to revivals that we listen with a kind of thankful amazement, to the accounts of what God has wrought - When we see the marches of Zion's King through your thrice favoured state we can only say, "Our souls do magnify the Lord" and exclaim with the Psalmist "Bless the Lord O our souls and "forget not all his benefits." The Lord has surely given the richest blessings to your town! We think it must continually be like the garden of the Lord where the Spirit, like the gentle breath of summer diffuses joy all around. We wait for the same sweet influence among us. We think we sometimes hear Jehovah's footsteps in the midst of us - not those sounds of terror which guilty Adam heard; but the still small voice of mercy which bids the mourning sinner go in peace. We hope for great things and ask your prayers for us, that we to may know the blessed-

ness

of a revival and rejoice with joy in the goodness and mercy of our God.

You will confer a special favor upon us, if in your answer to this, you give us an accurate account of the number and names of the towns in Ct which are particularly visited by the Spirit, and the probable number of persons in each who are the subjects of the work.

We have lately received reviving news from Europe the substance of which you may find in the Presbyterian Magazine of Philadelphia. From this it appears that genuine orthodoxy is again reviving in many places, and that the worshippers of Jehovah Jesus are rapidly multiplying. We hope soon to hear from you. Dear Brethren, in the mean time believe that we remember you in the bonds of Christian affection.

In behalf of the Society for Enquiry —

Miss. Soc. Yale Coll. Conn. Horace S Pratt Cor. Sec. Y.

Copy of a letter directed to the Cor. Sec. of the society of inquiry on missions, in the Baptist Theol. Sem. at Philadelphia.

Princeton March 31st 1821.

Dear Brethren, —

We are happy to have an opportunity of acknowledging the pleasure which the information contained in your interesting letter, excited. We rejoice to hear that you have recently originated a Society whose great objects are "to cultivate a spirit of inquiry on the interesting subject of evangelizing the world," & to obtain information respecting the best means of spreading light in the paths of those who walk in darkness. — We believe that these questions next to those which concern our personal salvation, are among the most important which can be asked. & we feel that to answer them with the wisdom that their importance demands, is the task of an Angel, rather than of mortals. But because we cannot tell, at once, how "nations must be born in a day", because we cannot break the seals which shut us from futurity,

this is no reason why we should not use the wisdom God has given us, in devising plans for the dissemination of truth; & the strength with which he has furnished us, in their execution. The cause of Missions, which indeed is eminently the cause of God, seems of late to have excited the deepest interest among all who think sin a great evil, & the salvation of the Gospel of great importance: it is identified with all that is beautiful in benevolence, & with all that is lovely in piety. Accordingly wherever the pure & benevolent spirit of the Saviour is found, there are found the friends of Missions, & an active influence in favour of the Heathen. This has been recently remarkably exemplified in many places in Europe. In Germany & Switzerland particularly. No sooner had the scales of superstition fallen from the eyes of individuals than they became missionaries to others, & like the Apostles went from city to city, & from country to country, proclaiming those unsearchable riches which the folly & wickedness of men had so long concealed. We have lately thro' the medium of one of the brethren, received intelligence from Geneva, which substantiates this statement, the substance of which has been published in the "Presbyterian Magazine of Philadelphia" from this you may learn what God is doing in Europe, & how much his dear people are engaged for the salvation of the Heathen. —
You request to furnish you with information that will advance the interests of your fraternity. This we would with great pleasure do, but at present perhaps you have all that is in our power to communicate. Mr Ward whose presence with us excited much interest, has doubtless furnished you with all that is important & interesting from India, his representation of the wants & woes of deluded Hindostan has made us more than feel the importance of making the most vigorous exertions to emancipate them & others from the miserable subjection to Sin & Satan. Mr Patterson, recently from the Western Indians, gave us a most interesting account of several tribes, who are anxiously waiting for the bread of life, & are literally saying like the people of Macedonia, "come over & help us."
Dear Brethren, these are solemn appeals, & let us see to it, that at the last great day we are not found guilty of turning a deaf ear to their intrea-

ties & of having them, without concern, to people the dark world of woe.
The usual business of the "Society for inquiry" in this Seminary is
first to hear all verbal communications respecting revivals &c. & all
letters which in any way have a bearing on the interests of the church.
2d An Essay on some subject connected with the great object we have
in view & 3d We attend to the discussion of some question which
selected at the previous meeting is fully canvassed by disputants
appointed for that purpose. These are the most prominent exercises
of the Society, which usually employs from 4 to 5 hours. We
meet in society, the first day of every month. The signs of the
times are so interesting & significant, that we find these days
among our most profitable & delightful. we love to hear of what God
is doing for the Heathen. it fills our souls with joy to listen to the
numerous accounts of most glorious revivals which mark the present
day, & which chase the hitherto dark & dreary prospect that lay before us.
We believe the Lord is raising up heralds who shall ere long go & preach
the gospel to every creature. We hope that these same considerations
rejoice your hearts, & that you also have the exalted pleasure of feel-
ing that you are by anticipation coworkers with God in the
blessed work of saving souls. "Brethren pray for us," "that we
may be faithful," and that "the Lord" may "bless you, & keep you,
"the Lord make his face to shine upon you, & be gracious unto you."
"And the Lord lift up his countenance upon you & give you
peace is our earnest prayer"

In the name & in behalf of the "Society
of Enquiry on Missions" Horace S. Pratt C.S.

30. Copy of a Letter to the Reverend William Carey D.D. Missionary at Serampore, and Professor in the College of Fort William, – Bengal. (E. Indies.)

Theological Seminary, Princeton (N.J.) March 22 – 1821.

Rev.d Sir, and tho' unknown
Beloved father in Christ Jesus.

Encouraged by your beloved fellow-servant, and our dear friend, the Rev. Wm. Ward, the "Society of Enquiry on Missions and the state of Religion" in the Theo. Sem.y of the Presbyterian church, at Princeton New-Jersey, venture to address you.

If our hearts do not deceive us, we desire above all things that the "nations should be given to our Lord Jesus Christ for his inheritance"; — we hope, we ourselves are called to the ministry of his Gospel, & therefore would omit no opportunity of acquiring the wisdom & the spirit, necessary to the proper discharge of that most important office. Having some knowledge, Sir, of your benevolent efforts to advance the kingdom & glory of our blessed Redeemer, – and confiding in your willingness to instruct the ignorant & sustain the weak; the consideration of our own youth & inexperience, instead of deterring rather prompts us to address you, and to beg you, occasionally to favour us with such communications as may aid us in preparing us for our contemplated work. We would have you regard us not as equals, who may reciprocate the favours we receive, but as youthful disciples — as children, who wish to learn.

On April 4, 1810, We did ourselves the honour to elect yourself – the Rev. J. Marshman D.D. and the Rev. Wm. Ward honorary members of our Society; and directed a Committee consisting of brothers, P.C. Henry, E.J. Swift, G. W. Gale, to inform you of this fact, and propose a correspondence. Whether the Committee performed the task assigned them, we are unable at this distance of time, to determine: neither can we tell, whether you have favoured us with a letter; but we feel we have sustained a heavy loss in not having received many from you. Perhaps, Sir, some faithful exhortations conveyed to us thro' the medium of letters from our Rev.d fathers

at Scampton; might, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, have quickened our languishing graces; - impelled us to more vigorous exertions in the service of our Redeemer, and made us better men & better ministers of the Gospel. We are therefore encouraged to hope, you will write us. Associated for the purpose of obtaining important information respecting domestic & foreign Missions, with a view of ascertaining our personal duty as to engaging in them; - desirous also of being made acquainted with the state of religion in our own & in other countries", we shall at all times feel happy in listening to your instructions: in profiting by your experience; and in being animated by your example & success, to press forwards, with augmented alacrity & holy ardour, in the Christian race.

The different names by which we are known in the Christian church, & the different views we take of points not essential; will not be suffered to affect our feelings towards you, or to damp our joy at your success. Our warfare is with the common enemy: the enemy not of Baptists or Presbyterians, but of christianity.

With respect to the state of missionary feeling among us, it becomes us to speak modestly. We believe that the spirit of missions is the spirit of Christianity, and trust that we have in some small degree felt its power. A few of us have begun to hope that the great Head of the Church, in his wonderful condescension will employ us as missionaries to the Heathen. One of our number is now in Ceylon: & another among the savages of the western forests. While we mention these things, however, a regard to the truth, obliges us to confess, that we are mournfully deficient: the wants of the Heathen have just begun to present themselves to our view - and we are just beginning to hear the cry "Come over & help us" O, pray for us that our eyes may be opened to behold their misery & our ears to hear their cry - and that our hearts may be enlarged - so that we may act as becomes our high calling -

Yours is a ministry truly apostolical. You have learned in a way which we know not, what Paul meant; when he said "We are troubled on every side, but not in despair; persecuted but not forsaken; cast down but not destroyed: always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh" Think us not presuming if we pray you & your beloved companions in the sufferings & joys of the Gospel to go forward. It is the path which Jesus trod & he marked it with his blood. -

92. We pray that all your benevolent efforts for the salvation of the perishing millions of Asia, may be crowned with success; & that when the time of your departure draws near, you may be enabled with Paul to say "We have fought a good fight, we have finished our course, we have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for us a crown of righteousness, which the Lord the righteous Judge shall give us at that day." On that day, we hope to find you among that great multitude which no man can number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in your hands; and crying with a loud voice "Salvation to our God who sitteth upon the throne, & unto the Lamb!"

In the name, and in behalf of the Society of Enquiry on Missions

I am, Rev.d Sir,

Very respectfully yours

Michael Osborn Cor. Sec.

Extract of a letter to Gen. P. B. Porter of Black-Rock containing a communication for Red-Jacket.

I am empowered by a Missionary Society, established in this Seminary, to hold some communications with Red Jacket, for the object of obtaining from him in a full & connected way, his reasons for rejecting the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We wish him to understand that our feelings are entirely respectful & friendly in making these enquiries: & you may use your pleasure in either presenting this part of my letter as ~~immediately~~ directly addressed to him; or as coming through yourself. — The latter seemed most secure & efficient: yet be so good as to use your discretion in regard to this mode both of communicating & receiving.

Such a document as might be forced from the amazing ingenuity, & profound sagacity of this truly wonderful man of the forest, would be highly interesting, & might be not without its uses — I venture to call for your services here, not only because I am assured of your kindness but of your great influence with the Indian Tally.

Theo. Sem. Princeton Aug. 1. 1821. Jno. Breckinridge
Cor. Sec.

Copy of a letter to the Rev. Jn. Ete. Coulin, chaplain of the hospital of Geneva Switzerland.

Princeton le 30 Juin 1821

Monsieur et bien aimé frère en Christ.

La lettre obligeante que vous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'écrire en date du 3 Octobre 1820, m'est parvenue le 16 Février dernier et je vous en fais mes sincères remerciemens. Ce me fut vraiment un grand plaisir d'apprendre de vous tout ce que le Seigneur fait maintenant pour l'avancement de son règne dans cette ville chérie de Genève qui a donné le jour à tant de serviteurs fidèles de notre Seigneur, et qui après avoir éprouvé une nuit si longue, si sombre et si orageuse, voit enfin paroître l'aube d'un beau jour, qui fait naître à la fois l'espérance et la joie dans le coeur des fidèles. Il semble que sa devise soit maintenant vérifiée: "Post "tenebras lux." Je ne me rappelle pas d'avoir eu le plaisir de

(34) vous voir à Genève, quoique votre nom ne me soit pas inconnu, mais qu'importe, nous sommes unis je l'espère par des liens plus forts et plus durables que ceux qui rassemblent les plus proches parens; ayant un même Père qui est dans les Cieux, un même Sauveur, un même Consolateur, une même édifice dans le ciel, une maison éternelle qui n'a point été faite par la main des hommes.

Tous les détails que vous me donnez, cher et bien-aimé frère, sur l'état de la Religion en Europe m'a fait le plus sensible plaisir, et non pas à moi seul, mais aussi à tous nos frères qui sont avec moi; et nous avons éprouvé combien sont vraies ces paroles de l'Ecriture que, "de bonnes nouvelles apportées "d'un pays éloigné, sont comme de l'eau fraîche à une personne "altérée et lasse." C'est pourquoi nous avons rendu grâces ensemble au Père de notre Seigneur et Sauveur Jésus-Christ de ce qu'il a daigné répandre son S^t. Esprit en abondance et d'une manière si étonnante sur le pays que vous habitez et sur les contrées qui l'environnent. Et nous prions pour vous, afin que vous soyez rempli de la connoissance de sa volonté, que vos mains soient affermies dans l'oeuvre du Seigneur, et que votre coeur se réjouisse de voir que votre travail n'est pas en vain auprès du Seigneur.

Votre lettre, mon cher Monsieur, ne m'a pas trouvé comme vous le pensiez à Raleigh dans la Caroline du Nord, mais à Princeton, dans le nouveau Jersey, où je suis venu pour faire mes études de Théologie. Un Séminaire y est établi, qu'on appelle, le Séminaire de Théologie de l'Eglise Presbytérienne des Etats-Unis. Ce Séminaire est sous la direction de l'Eglise Presbytérienne, il fut établi il y a neuf ans; les Professeurs sont choisis par l'Assemblée Générale de cette Eglise, qui se tient annuellement à Philadelphie au mois de Mai. Les Professeurs actuels sont le Rev. Mr Archibald Alexandre D. D. et le Rev. Samuel Miller D. D. avec M^r. Charles Hodge Instituteur des langues grecques & hébreuses. Le cours de Théologie est de trois ans; il y a maintenant 73 étudians. Le système

de théologie dont nous nous servons est celui de François Turrettin de Genève, malheureusement les exemplaires en sont très-rares et ce n'est qu'avec la plus grande difficulté que nous pouvons nous en procurer un nombre suffisant.

Nous avons dans ce Séminaire une Société dont tous les étudiants sont membres, qui s'appelle, "La Société de recherches sur les Missions". Le but de cette société est d'obtenir tous les renseignements possibles sur l'avancement du règne de Dieu sur la terre, afin d'exciter en nous un plus grand désir pour le salut des âmes, et afin aussi de pouvoir découvrir plus aisément dans quelle partie de sa vigne nous pourons travailler avec le plus de succès lorsque nos études seront finies. Cette Société se rassemble le premier jour de chaque mois, alors chacun fait part des bonnes nouvelles qu'il a reçues. Et il n'y a pas de mois que nous n'ayons sujet de rendre des actions de grâces au Seigneur, des merveilles qu'il opère parmi les nations. Les Etats-Unis sont favorisés d'une manière singulière. Le Seigneur a daigné répandre son S^t. Esprit sur plusieurs parties de son Eglise dans ces contrées. Les disciples de Christ se multiplient; l'esprit des missions s'accroit et s'étend de jour en jour, ensorte que la question n'est plus parmi les sociétés de missions: Qui enverrons-nous et qui ira pour nous? mais, A qui donnerons-nous la préférence? à qui conferrons-nous l'honneur de planter l'étendard de notre Rédempteur dans le pays de l'ennemi?

Nous sommes en correspondance avec toutes les parties des Etats-Unis, et avec la plus grande partie des missions parmi les payens, c'est pourquoi il me sera facile de vous communiquer tout ce qui pourroit vous intéresser sur le règne de Dieu sur la terre.

Votre lettre, Monsieur et très-cher frère a excité en nous un bien grand désir de savoir plus particulièrement ce que le Seigneur achève en Europe, c'est pourquoi ayant été nommé secrétaire des correspondances de l'Europe, je vous écrit avec d'autant plus de plaisir que je le fais au nom d'une

Société nombreuse, composée de jeunes gens dévoués au ministère du Seigneur dont plusieurs je l'espère désirent ardemment d'être employés comme missionaires parmi les payens, et dont chacun est disposé de s'écrier avec le prophète: "Me voici, Seigneur, envoie-moi."

Comme la distance qui nous sépare est si grande, la société que je représente se fera toujours un grand plaisir de vous communiquer de temps à autre les plus importantes nouvelles sur l'état de la Religion dans les Etats-Unis, lors même qu'elle n'auroit pas de vos nouvelles; nous nous flattons que vous nous ferez l'honneur d'en faire de même envers nous.

Pour le présent elle vous réfère à une lettre que je me propose de vous écrire en particulier, n'ayant pas encore eu le temps de recueillir les informations suffisantes pour vous faire une ébauche des institutions les plus importantes, fondées dans ce pays pour l'avancement du règne de Christ.

Outre toutes les nouvelles que vous pourrez nous donner sur l'état actuel de la religion à Genève, en Suisse, dans la France et l'Allemagne & qui nous seront toujours le plus sensible plaisir, nous vous prions d'avoir la bonté de nous informer du nombre des étudians en Théologie à Genève, s'ils paroissent être imbus de l'Esprit de Dieu et être déterminés lorsqu'ils entreront dans la vigne du Seigneur, de ne prêcher que Christ et Christ crucifié. Dites-nous aussi s'il vous plaît les noms des Professeurs de Théologie à Genève, le nombre des Pasteurs et Ministres dans cette ville. Nous serions bien-aises aussi d'apprendre de vous d'une manière plus particulière quel est l'objet de votre société dont vous parlez dans votre lettre, quels sont les succès que vous avez eu; quels sont les succès aussi de votre société biblique, de celle des traités religieux, des missions &c. Nous serons sensibles au moindre détail et nous vous promettons en retour de vous en donner de mêmes.

Nous prions le Seigneur qu'il accorde à tous ses fidèles serviteurs parmi vous, de prêcher son Evangile avec toute assurance,

et qu'il bénisse leur prédication de telle manière que tous les jours le Seigneur ajoute à l'Eglise des gens pour être sauvés. Puisse Genève redevenir ce qu'elle fut autrefois et puisse l'Evangile dans toute sa pureté retentir de chez vous dans toute la France, la Suisse et l'Allemagne.

Acceptez, cher et bien aimé frère nos salutations sincères & notre amour fraternel en notre Seigneur Jesus-Christ. Je suis, Monsieur et très-cher frère, votre affectionné et respectueux serviteur et frère dans la foi de l'Evangile

Etienne Frontis Sec.e

(38.) Copy of a circular letter addressed to the Rev Messrs H Townley I Keith. I Hampson S Trawin of Calcutta; I D Pearson. I Harle G Munday of Chinsurah; M T Adam of Benares: I Gordon; E Prichett I Dawson. of Vizagapatan; W C. Loveless C Traveller T Nicholson of Madras; I Hances W Reeve I Taylor of Bellary; A Forbes L Laidler of Bangalore; C Mead C Mault & I Smith of South Travancore:

All Missionaries from the London Society in India

Gentlemen

It has become my pleasing task to inform you that on the 2d of July last you were unanimously elected Honorary Members of the Society of enquiry respecting Missions in the Theological Seminary of the Presbyterian church in the United states of America at Princeton New Jersey. Our society was formed by a number of young men, members of this Seminary March 1st 1814. Its object is stated in the preamble of the constitution then adopted as follows: Desirous of obtaining important information respecting domestic & foreign Missions, with a view of ascertaining our personal duty as to engaging in them; desirous also of being made acquainted with the state of religion in our own & other countries; we agree to form ourselves into an association for the above purposes to be known by the name of the Society of Inquiry respecting Missions & the general state of religion. The regular stated meetings of the Society are held during the sessions of the Seminary, on the first day of every month, except when it interferes with the Sabbath in which case it is postponed to the succeeding Monday. After the meeting is opened with Prayer by the presiding officer, each member is called upon in turn any recent intelligence he may have received respecting the state of religion at home or abroad. A report is then read by one of the Members on a subject assigned at the last stated meeting. The Members perform this duty in turn as their names stand on the roll. The subjects usually assigned are condensed histories of the rise progress & present state of some foreign Mission — the religious state of a certain section of our own & other countries — or abstracts of works on the same subjects. These reports after receiving the corrections & approbation of the Society are deposited in the Library. After this the Society proceeds to the discussion of some subject connected with Missions which was also assigned at the preceeding meeting. Any miscellaneous business is then attended to after which the meeting is concluded with Prayer. With this view of the nature & object of our association before you, we beg you will do us the favour to consider yourselves members of it. Of those members of the Seminary who have belonged to the Society three are Missionaries to the heathen & a fourth died on his way to the Osage Indians in the S W part of the United States. A larger measure of the spirit of Missions seems to have been given us within the last

two or three years than at any former period since the formation of the Society: and we trust that the great Head of the church has inclined the hearts of several now with us to devote their lives to the work of preaching the Gospel to the Heathen. May we not hope Reverend Sirs, that you will lend your aid to cherish & increase the holy fire that has begun to burn amongst us? Pray for us that a greater measure of the Divine love may fill our hearts & excite us to go wherever Providence leads and to be & do and ~~not~~ suffer any thing for the name of Jesus. We will not conceal our earnest desire to hear from you provided that you can write to us without inconvenience to yourselves or detriment to the good work. Any suggestions as to the best mode of conducting our Missionary inquiries - subjects & questions for our reports & debates - or information respecting the most eligible Missionary fields & the qualification of Missionaries for particular stations &c will be very acceptable. We would also take the liberty of requesting that (provided it be perfectly convenient) you will favour us by vessels coming to the U S with such tracts &c printed in India as you may judge will be useful to us. The claims of the heathen upon our Christian charity are beginning to be felt more in this country & the blessed cause of Missions is gradually acquiring a large number of liberal patrons & Zealous advocates. Among the subordinate causes that have operated to produce this better state of things, an important place we think should be given to the more general diffusion of religious Knowledge. A few years ago very many of our christian people appeared not to know that there were hundreds of Millions of souls perishing for ~~the~~ want of the Gospel. But now they are better acquainted with this tremendous truth, & we pray it may be the means of kindling in every section of our American church such a flame of heavenly philanthropy as will not be extinguished while there is left a single heathen on earth. During the last two or three years there has been an effusion of the H Spirit upon our churches almost unparalled in the history of our country. The blessing was confined mostly to the Baptist, Methodist, Episcopal Congregational & Presbyterian churches in some of the Northern & Eastern States. By the account of the state of religion within their bounds, published by the general Assembly of the Presbyterian church at the close of their sessions in May last it appears that "additions have been made during the last year to the churches from which reports have been received of seven thousand one hundred & eighty six souls" In several places the work still continues. Praying that your labours may be crowned with signal success & that you may ever enjoy the light of the Divine countenance I am Rev Sirs. By order & in behalf of the Society of inquiry respecting Mis

Missions (40.)

very respectfully yours
Michael Osborn 4th Cor Sec
Theological Seminary at Princeton
New Jersey U S A Septem 1st 1821
NB Please direct your communications "Society of inquiry respecting
Missions Theological Seminary Princeton New Jersey U S A
(Scribe H. W. Hunt)

Copy of a letter to the Revd. Henry Woodward Missionary at Ceylon, sent out by the A. B. C. F. M. and sometime a member of this Seminary.

Theo: Sem 7. Princeton Nov. 16. 1821

Dear Brother.

You will be at no loss to know the author and yr. object of this letter when you learn that it comes from Princeton. We are all brethen, & we wish to remind you of the relationship, & by commencing a correspondence too long neglected, to increase that attachment wh: is already we hope both ardent & sincere. It is pleasant to correspond with any dear Missionary, for they are all dear, but more especially with one who has occupied the same seats, & listened to the same teachers with ourselves. There is something wh: unites the members of this institution wh: it is delightful to feel, though not easy to describe. Only we will say that the tie is strong, & we believe will last forever.

The mention of this place prompts many inquiries, no doubt, wh: we should be glad to answer. Could you return to it you would feel most sensibly that the fashion of this world passeth away. Changes have been numerous. The congregation is now under the pastoral charge of yr. Revd. Geo: S. Woodhull, formerly of Cranberry in this state. Since he came there has been a considerable excitement in the village. During the last winter, conferrence & other meetings were generally attended, & upwards of 30 have united themselves to the church; among whom, you will be pleased to learn, is the eldest son of Dr. Alexander, who is expected to become a member of the Seminary.—

In college also many were inquiring with considerable anxiety the way to Zion, & some we hope have found it. About 20 of the students have united in our communions during the year; most of whom we hope will be commanded to preach the Gospel.

The Seminary is flourishing as to numbers, tho' its funds are still inadequate to the supply of its wants. Measures have been taken for the endowment of 3 Professorships, & 10 Scholarships. Of the latter 4 are to be endowed by the Classes of 1819 & 1820, & two now in the Sem'y. The building wh: you left unfinished, is still so, tho' some progress has been made. The rooms in the three lower stories of the building are nearly complete, & 6 or 7 in the fourth. The Library has been removed into the edifice & now consists of about 1600 volumes. The yard has been enclosed, & a garden laid off in the rear of the building wh: has been cultivated during the past year by the students, & the proceed devoted to Missionary purposes. The Professors house is finished, & is now occupied by Dr. Alexander. A third Professor has not yet been appointed, but Mr Charles Hodge performs the duties of assistant teacher of the original languages.

We have now about 70 Students most of whom are members of the Miss'y Society. This society is conducted at present with considerable spirit, & the day on wh: it meets is always hailed with gladness. On this day we are released from the dull routine of studious labour. We throw aside our books, and stand, & look abroad, & ask each other "What of the night?" We bring together our little stores of information as formerly, and always always are constrained to feel that the Lords hand is not shortened. And if perchance there appears a letter from some Missionary Brother our pleasure is proportionably increased, but this pleasure is usually denied us. And the disappointment is the harder to be borne that of those who once enjoyed the advantages of this society there are none enough to afford us a most gratifying & edifying correspondence. Why have you all forgotten us?

Of the students who have left the Seminary, Eight have entered into their rest. All in different parts of the vineyard, but each we hope was found faith-

fully labouring at his post. Doubtless you Dear Brother, can well estimate the value of your time, standing as you do in the midst of dying millions, and can well feel the force of that standing exhortation "Do with thy might." We lament that we feel so little for those dying souls, & that we are so apt to defer the time of labour & of prayer for their salvation, altho' the sudden deaths of our brethren assure us that there is not a moment to be lost. At our last meeting, we listened to the obituary of Br Loomis, mysteriously removed in the beginning of a useful & very splendid career, and we have just heard of the death of Br Searle of Indiana, whose loss we fear will not soon be made up. These are loud calls - they are the signals that demand dispatch. We hear - but soon alas! forget.

The subject of Missions has engaged more attention among the students during the last two or three years than formerly. Of absent Brethren, E. Chapman has gone as you know to the Little Osage Indians. T. S. Harris is about going to the Seneca's in N. Y. and Ch. S. Stewart is waiting a conveyance to the Sandwich Islands. And in the Seminary there are many we hope who are willing to go to the ends of the earth. We rejoice that in our country generally the state of feeling on Miss'y. subjects is changing. The claims of the heathen begin to be felt, & their calls to be regarded, and we believe that under God it is not now men but money that is wanting to convert the world. Still it must be acknowledged there is many a minister, & multitudes of private Christians whose hearts are steeled against all the intreaties of a dying world. Who can hear that there are 600,000,000 of deathless souls that are perishing in sin, & yet have scarcely a penny or a prayer to offer for their deliverance. And if you ask for a little to send them that gospel that would bring salvation, they tell you as their fathers for centuries have done, that "charity begin at home." Truly, after so many myriads have been permitted to perish, it is time that charity should come abroad, & make known to those who may yet live, that a Saviour has come. But this apathy Dear Sir, will not cannot last. The "stone" is rapidly increasing & will soon fill the earth. "The Son shall have the heathen for his

inheritance" — a precious promise! Even we in our studies can sometimes feed upon an assurance so plain & so positive as this; but you especially can taste its sweetness. And we sincerely pray that you may yet witness its complete fulfilment in Ceylon.

The most of our members belong to a society which is supporting two little boys in your family, to be called Archd. Alexander & Saml. Miller. We should be glad if you would notice them in your answer. — We would be glad to know also what are the peculiar talents and attainments which are requisite to a Missionary going to India? What kind of knowledge is most needed, and what kind of men? Whether a knowledge of medicine is very necessary? Whether any attempts at any of your languages would be well directed in this country? And in general the best way of preparing.

That God may make you faithful unto death, and give you afterwards a crown of life is our fervent prayer.

In behalf of "the Society of Inquiry on Missions,"

James Douglass
Secy. for Indian Corres.

Scripsit J. Douglass.

Copy of a letter to the Revd Gordon Hall, American Missionary at Bombay. East Indies.

Theol. Sem. Princeton N.J. U.S.A.
Sept 1 1821

Reverend and Beloved Brother,

In justice to ourselves we have to say that a letter was ordered to be written to you about six months since, but owing to the urgent private duties of our Cor. Sec. could not be prepared till now. We beg therefore that you will not attribute to our forgetfulness or want of affection for you, a delay resulting from circumstances not under our control. You & your beloved fellow labourers are often in our minds & in our hearts = And we gladly embrace this opportunity of expressing our sincere wishes for your abundant success in the work in which you are engaged; & that the God & Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner Man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith, that ye being rooted & grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all Saints what is the breadth & length and depth and height; & to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fulness of God.

During the last year or two, some of the Northern and Eastern States have been blessed with more copious showers of Divine Grace than have almost ever before been enjoyed by the American Churches. Time does not permit us to give you an account in detail of this most merciful visitation. We would merely state that "Additions have been made during the last year to the Chhs. from which reports have been received by the Gen. Ass of the Pres. Church, of 7135 souls". And from very many places the Spirit is not yet withdrawn. We seem to hear you with the importunity of faith & strong desire enquiring "How long O Lord shall it be ere thou wilt descend with such power & glory upon India". Alas! Dear Brother, the Chh. has hardly learned to pray for poor, benighted, polluted, perishing India. The Church, almost surfeited with the abundance of the blessings

which God showers down upon her, seems not to think of the famishing thousands that are daily perishing at her door.

Though comparatively much is done for enlightening the dark places of the Earth and the church is beginning to shake off the torpor which has locked up her senses for so many ages, yet a regard for sacred truth obliges us to confess that when what is done is compared with what ought to be done, it bears not the proportion of one to a thousand. We know it seems a contradiction in terms to talk of the Church's not feeling & praying & acting for the heathen. But stubborn facts, as recorded in the history of the church and daily presenting themselves to our view, have reduced us to the humiliating necessity either of speaking in this manner of the Ch., or of confessing that most of those who call themselves christians, & ourselves among them, have not the Spirit of Christ and are none of his!

To disclose our own failings to another is an irksome task, 'tis true, but to you we can speak without reserve because we are confident that you will bestow your exhortations & advice in the undisguised simplicity & faithfulness of a Minister of Christ, & at the same time with the tenderness of a brother. We remember the command of our Lord & Master (if indeed we may call him ours) "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." It is our only warrant for preaching at all. We know too that there are 600 millions of souls perishing for want of the Gospel & that without true repentance and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ every one of them will go down to the lake that burns with fire and brimstone. Yet of all the students (there are about 70) who are now members of the Seminary, not more than 7 or 8 perhaps have determined to be Missionaries to the heathen. How we wish they were more numerous & that so many others will be made willing & that those who think it their duty to go to the waste places of our Zion will by unceasing exertions promote greatly the blessed cause

We thank you dear brother, for your animated exhortations

and beg you will write to us often, and give us an interest in your intercessions at the throne of grace.

By private letters lately rec.d from Andover we are happy to learn that the Spirit of Missions prevails there to a very encouraging extent.

The last letter we rec.d from you is dated Apl. 14. 1817. Your very acceptable present of a book containing representations of Hindoo Deities came to hand in due time. Mr Bardwell is daily expected in this country. We would attempt to convince you how sincerely we regret the necessity of that valuable Brother's leaving India — we would exhort you to hope steadily in God, and expect more prosperous days = but a consciousness of our own want of a proper Spirit & need of being taught constrains us to be silent.

Before this reaches you, you will have rec.d the melancholy intelligence of the death of that faithful Servant of God, The Rev.d Samuel Worcester D.D. He sweetly fell asleep in Jesus, at Brainerd on 7.th of June 1821. His loss will long be felt. Who is competent to supply his place we know not.

may the Lord raise up some Elisha to receive the falling mantle of this ascended Father in Israel.

With the sincerest wishes for your good, I am, Revd Sir, in the name & by order of the

Society of Inquiry on Missions

truly yours

Michael Osborn 1.st Cor Sec

The Reverend Gordon Hall.

Copy of a letter to the Rev.d Hiram Bingham, one of the Missionaries in the Sandwich Islands.

Princeton N. J. Janiary 1st. 1822.

Dear Brother,

On the 1st March 1814 there was a society formed in this place by the Students of the Theological Seminary, to be known by the name of "the Society of inquiry respecting Missions and the general state of religion." Their object was to obtain information respecting domestic and foreign Missions with a view to ascertain their personal duty as to the part they should take in the great work of evangelizing the heathen. Of this society which, to the present, has been growing in numbers and in usefulness, yourself and Mr. Thurston were, to day, unanimously elected honorary members. Although your time for letter-writing is, no doubt, very limited, and the pleasure or advantage you can receive from any communications of ours will probably be very small; yet, in compliance with the general objects of our Society, we beg leave to open a correspondence. Immured, as we are, within the walls of our beloved Seminary, we feel the need of excitements from abroad. We are apt to become indifferent to the interests of Zion from not being able to engage actively in her service, or to behold for ourselves her desolations. Yet at times we think it is our greatest joy to look abroad from our retirement upon the whitened fields, and to converse with the dear labourers who are now toiling to gather in their sheaves; and that we should feel miserable if, while our own hands are tied, we did not see others faithfully elevating and bearing on the standard. We feel like the youth who hears the sound of battle at a distance, and longs to engage in it. To such an one nothing is so pleasant or so useful as to hear, from some soldier, of the toils and conflicts of his warfare. Tell us then of the might and subtlety and number of your enemies; of your inward fightings, and outward fears; of all your difficulties; and of the strength that is afforded. We wish not to be nourished on the lap of worldly ease & honor, but to be prepared for hardships. It was enough that in the dark ages the bishop regarded only his own ease and interest and aggrandizement while souls were perishing for lack of knowledge. Let the time past suffice for this. The time for labour and suffering has come. In the last century the world began to awaken as out of a dream to the wants of the dying heathen. A beginning was made, and something done: but this has already far exceeded it. This, we trust, will prove the age of christian heroism; of patient

persevering and successful christian exertion. We delight to carry our eye forward to its close, and observe the progress of the gospel then. Then, when your sun, dear brother, and ours will have set, and other missionaries and other students occupy our places, where will be the camp of Israel? Sometimes when we think of what the Lord has done in the first twenty years of the century, and what he can do in time to come, we are ready to hope that it will have passed the wilderness and be established in the top of the mountains, all nations flowing unto it. Then, perhaps, those points among the heathen where the missionary with his bible has planted himself, and which are now scarcely visible, will then be so many centres radiating light in every direction. Then, perhaps, the empire of China will be pouring its bibles over the inhospitable regions of the North. There will then be but one caste in India, and not an idol. The native Missionaries from Bombay will have met those from Judea. Our western Indians will be exploring the coasts of the northern ocean to see if, perchance, there should remain any wandering brother who had not heard of Jesus. Our sable preachers from Sherbro will have gone from sea to sea. Mecca will be abandoned. The Jews' Messiah will have come. Babylon the great have fallen. The natives of your Islands, and the Islands of Otaheite will be searching for any Isle that may yet be waiting for the law. "O'er the gloomy hills of darkness" will no longer be sung: but the Missionaries of those days will have learned a new song of praise to our God.

Judging of the future by the past, we indeed confess that these are idle reveries. But we trust the Lord will soon take the work into his own hands. We know that he can as easily overturn all the idols of the East, as he did those of Amboyna where they were all drowned; or of your Islands where they were burned. Let us therefore lift up our heart with our hands unto God in the Heavens, that he may do these great things for us. 'Tis sweet to recollect, dear brother, that his ear is not yet heavy that he cannot hear, and to believe that he will send down showers of blessing in their season. While, however, this should be an age of peculiarly ardent and persevering prayer, there seems to be demanded a peculiar degree of intensity in christian exertion. It is not now merely the meekness and consistency of retired piety that is needed. We want daring and determined soldiers. We want such men of war as David had, three of whom could break thro' a host; or such as were some of his enemies who are called Lion-like men. We are not to expect that the powers of darkness will surrender without a desperate struggle: and therefore should be prepared for the conflict. And such men are needed, not merely for their personal exertions, but as ensamples to those who are coming after. We, dear brother, are looking to you, Mission-

aries,

aries, to form our characters; to set us an example of noble deeds which we may imitate. Of precept there is no lack, we have line upon line. But we need the excitement which is produced by the contemplation of great and daring achievements. There has, indeed, been a Brainerd in our own Country; and a Martyn in England, whom we have loved, and whose spirit we long to catch: but Martyn was of another Country, and Brainerd of another century. We look to you, dear brethren and sisters, to set us such examples now. And although their mantle did not fall on us; yet, perhaps, when you are ascending, we may be more blest. O that I were spirit, says Brainerd, that I might be continually glowing in the service of my God! O that the Almighty Spirit may teach you so to pray, and answer your petitions!

Pardon us if this looks like exhortation. We only mean to attend, in our imperfect and lifeless manner, to that standing rule which the great Missionary has left us, to exhort one another daily. Nor must you think that we ourselves are so ardently engaged in the service of the Saviour, that, from the fulness of our hearts, we cannot but thus exhort you. We fear that you will think we are burning with zeal for the Lord, like Jehu of old. Alas! it is no such thing. We are miserably cold and stupid, and exceedingly unfit for the office we are seeking. We intreat an interest in your prayers.

In the course of the present year, one of our brethren (perhaps two) will probably sail for your Islands. We send him forth to you, as Rebecca did her favourite Jacob, laden with our blessings & your prayers. We can bear him record that he hath a great zeal for you, and we trust you will find him a faithful minister and fellow-servant in the Lord. May he strengthen your hands; and, through your united labours, much people be added to the church!

We have now, in our Seminary, upwards of 70 Students under the Revd. Drs Alexander & Miller & Mr. Hodge. Some amongst us, no doubt, are seriously thinking of Missions: but whether the Missionary-Spirit is increasing among us, it is difficult to tell. We hope to be awakened to our duty by your correspondence. Tell us what you consider the most important qualifications of a Missionary, & particularly of one going to the S. Islands &c &c. And, now you are on Missionary ground, what do you understand by the promise "He shall receive an hundred fold now in this time"? We hope you find it verified; but how is it? Remember us affectionately to all the brethren and sisters who are with you. We know their names and hope, by & by, to know them face to face. We are particularly familiar with Mrs Bingham's neat little school room & hope that the seed which she sows in it will yield an abundant harvest. And now, dear friends, be of good courage. Quit yourselves like men. Be strong. Sow plentifully, that you may reap also plentifully. — Note. The first impression was, that Mrs B. had described her school room. If it was her private apartment, let the prayer still remain. Let her sow the seeds of exalted personal piety. The first great business upon earth is the sanctification of my own soul, says the beloved Martyn. In behalf of the Soc: &c. Jos: Douglass 4th Cor: Sec'y. —

To the Society of Enquiry on Missions
Theo. Sem. Andover

Princeton Sept. 8. 1821

Dear Brethren, Your last was rec'd in March, the answer was ordered ~~transmitted~~ immediately. But the private engagements of our first Corresponding Sec. have been such that he has not been able to answer it. We offer this and only apology without comment, but with our deepest & sincerest regret that five months should elapse, without any of that kind & animating interchange of feeling & sentiment, upon subjects dearest to the hearts of Zions friends, & connected with the glory of Zions King, which we trust our Correspondence will always be the means of carrying on. The subject of this sheet will be to propose to your earnest & prayerful consideration, Brethren, a subject totally proposed to us by Mr E. Nichols of N. York. We shall give you the substance of his letter. You are probably aware that the Govt of the U. S. have dismissed all Chaplains from the U. S. Army except the one at West Point. Who also performs the duty of a Professor in that Institution. The reason assigned is the difficulty of filling those interesting & important stations with suitable men. The reason is no doubt founded in fact. It is also a well known fact, that altho' Law provides for Chaplains for our Ships of War, yet that provision is often useless & worse than useless in consequence of the appointments falling on Individuals who make no pretentions to the necessary qualifications for filling the sacred office. They are generally secular men & have secular notions, often act as Captains, Clerks & many of them do not even pretend, it is believed, to perform the duties of reading prayers & a Sermon, which is all any of them pretend to. Such a state of things produces little advantage, & frequently positive evil. The lives of these Men are totally at variance with their poor instructions.

Now what is the remedy for such a melancholly evil? The Govt. of the Navy is not to be blamed. They cannot obtain able, holy & exemplary men to fill these Offices, Men who humbly & ardently would watch for the souls of poor Seamen, as those that must give account. A few of the friends of man & of the Redeemer of man are making this a subject of their Meditations & their prayers. Probably an application will be made by them to Congress at the next Session, to make some provision for Chaplains for the Army - and should their efforts prove successful, where are the men to be found qualified to accept appointments.

Dear Brethren they cast an anxious, asking eye to you, to us, to all who love the Saviour & the souls of men, who have devoted themselves to the Service of the Lord - whose hearts bleed over the mournful ruins of the fall, whose bosoms burn with a holy ardour to preach the Cross of Jesus, & Call back wandering immortals to holiness & Heaven. We trust you will take the subject into serious Consideration & propose it to the Brethren at New Haven. Could persons be found who were willing to devote themselves to this work of love & Mercy, by tendering their services to the Secy. of the Navy who is a decided friend to Religion (in case provision should be made for Chaplains in the Army) to the Secy. at War, who has manifested a similar Spirit, they might secure to themselves such appointments. We trust that many in our Institutions will devote themselves to the Cause of Missions, & where is a more promising Station than one of our Ships of War. Facts prove that Sailors are not the most untoward materials for the Spiritual Temple. Sailors will hear & profit by instructions. The peculiar advantages of such a Situation at once suggest themselves. Besides an ample field for Ministerial labours, & instructions, a Man would have leisure for pursuing his Studies. Studying human nature - Opportunity of seeing diff. parts of the world, for distributing Bibles & Tracts and establishing agencies & correspondences for Bible & other Societies in the parts he may visit, & in various ways promote the Cause of Christ.

And all this would by no means unfit him, after a few years service for a deff.t Sphere of opperations. Chaplains in the Army will be established at Melatary posts around, which a new population will be continually Clustering, & there supported by gov.t they will be able to bestow volunteer Missionary labour on people in those places generally beyond the reach of Mess.y Soc.s & to to become valuable correspondents to Soc.s engaged in sending the Gospel both to the Whites & the Aborigines of our Country. It is sincerely to be hoped that some will be found to devote themselves to the Spiritual welfare of our Marine & Land defenders, at least for a few years. The Measures of our Gov.t may be ever so wise, that alone will not avail. The Sons of the Prophets must say to Gov.t here we are, send us.

This subject is altogether independent of the Question whether Wars are justifyable. So long as fleets & armies are maintained, no doubt it is the duty of Christians to send them that gospel that proclaims peace on Earth & will ere long cause the Standard of War to be furled forever.

Our Session ends in two weeks, the Class that leave us consists of nearly 30 Members. The most of them are destined for the South & West, several to the State of N York - one to the Sandwich Islands. Some will continue here for the present, destination not known. Dear Brethren, May the Lord of Missions pour down upon you much his holy Spirit, & encircle you all in his everlasting Arms. For Society of Enquiry &c.

Joseph Sanford Cor. Sec.

To the Society of Enquiry on missions at
New Brunswick.

Princeton Dec 1 – 1821 –

Dear Brethren

We have resolved to break the silence which has been occasioned by the recurrence of our respective vacations, and hasten to express the satisfaction we feel on the formation of a missionary association in your Seminary, and the hope that our correspondence will be calculated to promote the object of our respective associations. To obtain information on the subject of missions, & to catch and cultivate the spirit of Elliot & Brainerd, Swartz and Vanderkemp, Mills, Martyn, & Newell, and all who have spent their whole lives & yielded up their breath in the cause of our common Redeemer.

From the proximity of our situations it cannot be supposed, we shall always have interesting intelligence to communicate, but it should enter into our first fears and hopes, to endeavour to improve in deep and ardent piety, to become more and more Spiritually minded, better acquainted with our own hearts and to detect the enemies of our spiritual peace, that may be lurking there; to be prompted by a high & holy & more unreserved dedication of ourselves to God, to have no wish but the will of God; to pursue no object but the glory of God; to leave the things of this world to the men of this world, and feel that we are not our own, that we are bought with a price, and therefore to glorify God, with our bodies and spirits which are his.

These dear Brethren are objects for the attainment of which we wish to labour & strive & in relation to these things we fondly hope to be profited by our correspondence with you.

There are some considerations which seem to make it the peculiar duty of ministers & candidates for the ministry to enquire into their motives in seeking that holy office.

Of the three professions commonly called the learned professions, two are crowded; but the calls for ministerial & missionary labour were perhaps never so numerous, and so loud as at present. The Macedonian cry is heard in every direction & the supplications, the heart rending

supplications of thousands starving for the bread of life, float upon every breeze.

Now it is possible, that the sure prospect of employment, the hope of a comfortable support & a life of literary ease may induce some to enter upon the sacred office and to touch the ark of God with an unhallowed hand.

This possibility becomes a certainty when we glance at the mysterious dispensations of Gods provi= dence which has within a few years caused the church to mourn upon the melancholly and disgraceful fall of some of her most public and promising members. We will not pollute this page by recording names. But let us who think we stand take heed lest we fall. Let us look and be admonished. Let us examine again and again our own hearts and motives & implore the scrutiny of our make Creators eye and the restraining and renewing influence of his grace

But a view of the responsibilities of the profession we seek and a sense of our own weakness and unworthiness, & a knowledge of the enemies that are in array against us are enough to prompt the anxious and apprehensive interrogation, Who is sufficient for these things? Yet blessed be the Captain of our Salvation, we can be strong in the Lord & in the power of his might. Leaning upon an almighty arm, then let us go forward Brethren in every duty, considering no sacrifice too great to be made in the cause of our Redeemer.

The field is wide before us. All the kingdoms and nations under the whole Heaven are given to Christ by promise, & as yet the Prince of darkness holds them in usurped possession. For altho' many countries are called christian, yet a vast majority of the population are led captive by Satan at his will. These are all to be subdued by the power of God and through the instrumentality of men.

Brethren our lot is cast in a highly favoured land, we live upon the very heights of Zion. We have been nursed and nurtured by pious parents & taught in infancy to lisp the name of Jesus. We have been reared to manhood amid all the blessings of gospel light & we can scarce conceive

of the Spiritual wants of many of our Brethren in distant & destitute parts of our beloved Country.
There are large and populous districts without one messenger of a Saviours mercy, & with scarce a worshipper to invoke his name; Thousands of immortal men, surrounded by moral darkness & moral death in the bosom of a Christian land.
Our Marine and land defendees are deplorably destitute of Religious instruction & the army & Navy open wide and interesting fields for benevolent christian enterprise & zeal.
We have not mentioned 600 millions of pagans, whose claims one would think sufficient to arouse the still slumbering energies of Christendom, and call the sympathies & the benevolence of all holy beings in the Universe to action. Brethren let us pray in earnest that the Lord of this wide a wasting harvest would send labourers to the field. And may he grant us more of his spirit & prepare us for his service.

We are dear Brethren &c

Joseph Sanford Cor Sec

Princeton Jan 1st 1822

Dear Brethren. In consequence of some remissness on the part of our former Cor. Sec in this department, in connection with some little confusion that has attended the transfer of the papers belonging to the office, your last has been mislaid, and though we have waited for some with the hope of finding it, yet we have not succeeded and am therefore ignorant of its date and contents. We have thought it our duty to mention these facts as an explanation and apology for our long silence, lest you might suppose it an indication of lessening interest, and a subsidence of fraternal feeling, inconsistent with our principles and professions. The grand enquiry for which we are severally associated, presupposes the existence in our bosoms of that sacred heaven-born principle which binds all holy beings in the universe to the throne of their common Lord and sovereign, and which is at this moment operating with an energy unknown before in combining and directing the efforts of the people of God, to fill the world with the blessings of the Gospel. Brethren while we cannot but hope we feel something of this spirit, yet we have reason deeply and apprehensively to lament that we feel so little - The spirit of Missions, is nothing more nor less than the spirit of Jesus Christ and his apostles as breathed forth in the Gospel. And "if a man have not the spirit of Christ he is none of his." And this subject is of importance to be considered in the very commencement of enquiries on the subject of Missions, as it is also in settling the question of our own hopes of heaven - "He that loveth Father or Mother more than me is not worthy of me, and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth me is not worthy of me" - And again. "If any man come to me, and hate not (that is have less love for) his Father, and Mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. Now without pausing here to ascertain the whole amount of obligation enforced by these words of our Saviour, they certainly authorize the assertion. That no consideration whatever of an earthly

nation is to continue the execution of Gods commands. Why then has the church for more than 1800 years been united, the command to preach the gospel to every creature. Why have nearly 60 generations of the human family gone down to the grave without the Gospel, since the command was issued? And when we add to these confirming questions the declaration from the lips of our Saviour "He that heareth me not heareth not my sayings" and are sound over and over again, that obedience to his commands is the only admissable evidence of our love to him. It is a thought to make us tremble. And yet by this immutable standard of Gospel righteousness we must stand or fall. O brethren while with tearful anxious eyes, and many prayers to God, we survey the wreck of the moral world, and enquire into the ignorance and wretchedness of its immortal millions, let us strive to feel, that they have claims on us as Xians and that we constitute a part of the church, to which the command was addressed, and, upon which the guilt must be charged that has occasioned it's present ignorance. We are confident, that much of the indifference that prevails in our country on the subject of missions, is in consequence of ignorance of the state of the world and of the exertions of the day. We are happy to suggest the propriety of circulating religious intelligence generally, and Missionary intelligence in particular. And here we take the liberty of recommending the Missionary Herald published at Boston, for and at the expense of the Am. Board of Com.rs for foreign Missions. Brethren be not weary in well doing for in due season ye shall reap if ye faint not. Though your numbers be small and your situation unfavourable and embarrassing yet not a few that they that be for you are more and mightier than they that be against you. The cause in which you are engaged is not a human project that may succeed or may fail. No it is the cause of God. For which he created and preserves the world. In which he laid down his life and all the creatures of his power in natural and moral bonds in heaven and earth and hell will in some way or other contribute to it's accomplishment.

We have no intelligence of special interest to communicate. All the information we have lately received has been

through the medium of papers to which you have access
We have many heart rending repetitions of the Macedo-
nian from the western states. There thousands are starving
for the bread of life - The 600 millions of the pagan world
still present their appeals to our sympathies and our heart
one of our brethren is just established among the Sen-
eca Indians. another will probably sail with the
next mission family to the Sandwich Islands -
But oh! brethren let us pray for the spirit of missions
upon all our schools and colleges and let us in our
several spheres employ all our talents and all our in-
fluence on the side of Christ - We shall hope to
hear from you by your earliest convenience and
and we remain dear Brethren yours in the faith
and hope and fellowship of the Gospel

Joseph Sanford
1st Cor. Sec. &c.

Theological Society Hampden Sydney Col. Va.

(Copy of a Letter directed to "Rev. Gordon Hall, Missionary, Bombay.")

Theol. Sem., Princeton, April 1. 1822.

Dear Brethren,

Some few years ago, Bro. Hall was so good as to favour us with several successive communications, which were a source of much pleasure & profit. His painting of your Indian Deities still excite many a painful feeling. Why the correspondence has been discontinued we cannot tell, but hope it has not been negligence on our part. We know indeed that you have little time for letter-writing, & therefore can readily excuse you, if the omission had been yours: yet we hope you will allow us to resume the correspondence. We long to breathe your atmosphere & catch your spirit, & hope therefore that you will frequently send us a word of exhortation, - and that too, not in the fearful, timid style, but deal plainly with us, Brethren, for it will take much to rouse us to a sense of duty. The field of Missions is every day increasing in magnitude & interest, & the prospects of success more & more animating, - yet we have to lament that the allurements of study are often too powerful for the obligations to prayer, - fervent & frequent prayer for the salvation of the Heathen. Do you ever feel this same temptation to spend that time in the study, which should be spend in some neighbouring hamlet, warning sinners? Perhaps we did wrong in asking you to write to us: the moments it will take might possibly have saved a soul. And when we think of our situation, the salvation of the soul seems really to be the only thing that is worth attention. And of souls to be saved, there is in Bombay no lack. Often when reading of the glorious displays of divine power in our own & other countries, do we turn our inquiring eyes to the post which you are guarding, & we have to wonder if God's hand is shortened, - if there is no blessing for you, even for you also. We hope your God enables you to be faithful, yet what can you do against so many! We wish we could assist you, - so we think at least, but alas! our few & faithless prayers flatly contradict us. -

Is it because we have so little piety, no doubt, that there is so little prayer among us for the salvation of the Heathen. Yet even if we had more, it is so hard for persons in our situation, to form any adequate ideas of their wretchedness, without having seen it, that our prayers would still be comparatively cold & lifeless. Could we place ourselves with you in the midst of ungodly & idolatrous millions, - excluded entirely from the Xtian friends & privileges, with which we are now blest, - ourselves & our message disregarded & despised, & standing, like Milton's Abdiel, the only faithfull among all the hosts of Satan, then, we think, should we learn to pray, & then too, should we labour to arouse our slumbering Churches.

But we would turn you from the contemplation of the weakness & unfaithfulness of your brethren in this country to the promises of God. Is it not cheering to remember, that notwithstanding all the indifference of your Heathen, & the malignant opposition

of our God-denying Heretics, the purpose of God standeth sure & will be accomplished? You have conned over all the promises, no doubt, & amidst your discouragements feed upon them. How comforting there is that in Isaiah, which assures us that his words shall not return unto him void, but shall accomplish that wherein he hath sent it? And in Ezekiel he will cause showers to come down in his season,- there shall be showers of blessings. Though as yet there be no cloud visible in your horizon, yet the shower will come in its season. We may then with certainty anticipate the day, when all your wretched Idolators shall know & worship the only true God & our Saviour,- when your city shall be called "Jehovah-Shammah, The Lord is there," & the hearts & its inhabitants shall no more go after their idols, but shall know that God is the Lord, the Holy one of Israel. —

That this period is near, it is pleasant to hope, but not so easy to believe. Many indeed as you know, thought that they could pretty certainly understand by books, the number of years, but we fear there has been some mistake in the calculation. We fear not because the Almighty is unable to convert the world in a little time, but because there is not a heart among Xtians, to use those means by which he usually works. Were they only to set their face unto the Lord to seek by prayer & supplication, & fasting for the conversion of the world, we must hope that it would soon be accomplished.- We hope that you differ from us in this respect & also in another of our deficiencies which we plainly enough see, but cannot remedy: it is that we do not expect & pray for great things. Shameful as it is to our faith, we must acknowledge that we are not looking & of course not wrestling for Pentecost days among the Heathen. We pray indeed that the spirit may be poured out in Bombay, for example, but our views seem not to extend beyond an occasional conversion. Instead of asking as we are permitted to do, for the Half of the Kingdom, we feel as if your prayers would be answered, should the Head of a single individual be put into your hands. We hope your ~~requests~~ faith is ~~are~~ stronger & your requests more honourable to God. Why might there not be as glorious a revival in Bombay & in as short a time, as at Grosuakeskung, under the devoted Brainerds? But should the Lord in his sovereignty, determine to try your faith yet longer, try, dear Brethren, to hang about the door-posts, & show him his own recorded declarations & promises, upon the strength of which you visited the Heathen, & he will surely come,- he will not tarry. He is permitting you alone to try your hand with these poor possessed Heathen, that he may make it manifest to all, whether the excellency of the power is of God or man, and when you give up the matter & become thoroughly convinced that you cannot dispossess the Devil, he himself we trust will come down & undertake the work. Be not discouraged then. Recollect that it was not until the break of day that Jacob obtained the blessing. The walls of Jericho must fall, yet the people must wait seven days.

We were glad to see in one of your last reports a recognition of the importance of preaching. Although we are very incapable of judging, yet we have sometimes ventured to think that there might be too much reliance upon the unassisted word of God, at some of our stations. How can they hear without a preacher?. In your situation indeed, it is probably next to impossible to pay much attention to this part of the Miss. work, not only because

your number is so small, but because of the rains & the excessive heat, yet if you should have a reinforcement, would not two or three Brethren labour to great advantage as Evangelists? We suggest this merely for the sake of information, & shall be glad of your opinion on the subject. We should be very glad too, if you would tell us what you consider the most important qualifications of a missionary to your station, & whether you do not think with Mr. Hothe, that single men might upon the whole be most useful. Of what age should your missionaries be? What do you think of the climate &c &c? What books do you most use & need? Should every male missionary have an extensive & accurate knowledge of medecine, or would you prefer a physician ex professo? Of what use is a smattering in physic? Bear with us, Brethren, we need information.

We could with ourselves near to sympathize with you, in the death of dear Mr. Newell. We thought it a sore trial & a seeming frown upon the mission when Mr. Bardwell was compelled to leave you, but this new dispensation is still more trying & mysterious. The Lord seems to be dealing with you as he did with Gideon & his army, & we cannot but hope it is for the same purpose.- We also have lately been called to diligence & watchfulness in the death of a dear brother. On the 21st. Feby., Mr. James B. Turner left us, in the triumphs of faith. No doubt he has been near your friend, for he was fond of Missionaries & often thought himself of visiting the Heathen.- We send you a Catalogue of our students.- Earnestly requesting an interest in your prayers, we remain, affectionately, Your Brethren.

In behalf of the Society of Inquiry on Missions,

Jas. Douglas.

Cor. Sec'y. for India.

If we did not love you, we should not have been so unwilling to leave off. Write soon.

P.S. I did not know, until after I had written, that my predecessor had sent a letter to your station some months ago. This explains the [illegible]. — J.D.

Princeton 31st January 1822 —

Dear Brethren

In answer to yours of November last we are happy to reciprocate your professions of fraternal feelings, to express our hope that the correspondence commenced may continue to our mutual benefit and growth in grace. We have observed with peculiar pleasure the favorable auspices under which your Institution has commenced its operations and the facilities it affords for making attainments in human science, and we confidently hope it will soon present equal advantages for the pursuit of sacred science. It requires no very extensive or minute observation of the state of the Church and of the world to convince almost any enlightened and liberal mind, that a learned as well as a pure and pious ministry is needed. The minister of the gospel may expect to find infidelity and error, sly and insinuating, but deep and designing at almost every turn and he must be able to detect and disarm it. We feel with you Brethren the influence of that gleam of light which prophecy casts upon the condition of the world and we are by no means insensible of the concurrent indications of prophecy & promise and providence respecting the future destiny and glory of the Church of Christ —

But though she has escaped from Egypt and has passed the sea we recollect she is still in the wilderness. She is surrounded by enemies who seem to be collecting and training and marshalling their forces perhaps for the decisive battle — And tho' the victory may be sure yet the strife may be tremendous and the trials may be far more dreadful than the fires of persecution — How important then that the ministers of the gospel should be thoroughly furnished, having the whole armour of God; and tho' the weapons of their warfare are not carnal but spiritual, yet they have to repel the attacks of enemies who use only carnal weapons, and so must put on the appropriate armor —

We rejoice dear Brethren, that you have it in your power to make some inroads upon the regions of moral darkness and death that spreads around you; be assured brethren, it is our ardent prayer you may be enabled to carry home the pure gospel of God our Saviour to the habitations and hearts of multitudes and that you may so recommend

it by your precept and example that all shall see its loveliness and feel its power

We have not forgotten that our respective associations are to make inquiries on the subject of missions - And here the infinite importance of the question respecting our personal religion must force itself upon every mind - But we cannot dwell upon it - If we are really the children of God by adverting to the conditions of the covenant, we have entered into we see we are not our own, but entirely the Lord's - We have renounced forever private interests and aims - We have devoted ourselves exclusively to the service of God, to perform his will whatever it may be and to obey his voice wherever it may call us - It is the more important to dwell upon this subject because Christians in general are too insensible of the claims of the gospel, and it is this insensibility that has paralyzed the energies of Christendom for eighteen hundred years - When we feel the force of these considerations we are prepared to look abroad upon the world - There we see by far the greater part of its inhabitants capable of serving and loving God, some crying for help and for the bread of life, others deluded by dreams of Idolatry, all borne along by millions to the world of woe - The Church of Christ at home; the destitute regions of our own country; the southern part of this continent; the Mohammedan and pagan millions of Asia & Africa & the numerous Islands of the sea present their various claims, and the language of every heart should certainly be "Lord what wilt thou have me to do?

May God direct our inquiries and enable us to do something in his cause - We are dear Brethren Your's in the best bonds -

By order of the Society of Inquiry &c

J. Sanford

Corres^g Sec^y

To the Society of Inquiry &c of Columbia College. Washington

Copy of a letter to Andover (No. 2) –

Princeton March 1st 1822 –

Dear Brethren.

In continuing our correspondence, it becomes our painful duty, to record one of Gods mysterious, but righteous dispensations, that has removed a dear Brother to the eternal world. James B. Turner died on the 21 of February, after an illness of only 6 days. His attack was extremely violent, and his recovery was considered very doubtful from the first. His pain seemed almost insupportable, and he had but few intervals of ease while he lived. It was his ardent desire to serve God our Saviour in the gospel ministry, he had almost completed his course in the Seminary, and expected soon to enter the field, commissioned to preach the Everlasting Gospel. But when he saw what the will of the Lord was concerning him, he resigned all his earthly hopes and prospects without a murmur. He did not enjoy as much light and confidence as he wished during his illness, tho' his faith in the promises of God, was firm and unwavering, and the presence of his Saviour, softened the bed of death, disarmed the conqueror of conquerors, and scattered the gloom from the grave. A short time before he expired, when he was fully sensible that the hour of his departure had come, he exhorted us to live nearer to God, mentioned that he was going to the world of spirits, that he prayed that God might go with us to pull down the kingdom of Satan, that nothing but Jesus could make his situation pleasant – that he wished for more light – that the righteousness of Jesus was his only hope – that the foundation was so broad he could not be disappointed. He took a most affecting and affectionate leave of his Physician, and our dear Professors, thanking them for all their respective and official duties and kindnesses, and wished them every blessing.
We saw our Brother enter the "Swellings of Jordan". We saw him struggling with the waves. We believe he felt the rock of ages, and the Everlasting arm supporting him. We watched him till he had passed the clouds and storms, and seemed to catch a glimpse of glory, to see "his Jesus", and to strike some of the first notes in his everlasting song. We could follow him no farther. While we gazed,

he left his clay behind, and we have no faculties for tracing the disincumbered spirit's flight. But blessed be God, a voice comes to us from the eternal world, and informs us of his safe arrival. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord henceforth yea saith the Spirit that they may rest from their labours and their works do follow them." Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints. Oh may the instructive example of our Brother while he lived, his solemn admonitions on the bed of death, his funeral knell, and the light of eternity that seems to flash upon us from every opening grave, be all sanctified to us by the Great God who has dealt this afflictive blow. Oh Brethren, may we all learn well the lesson such providences are calculated to teach. May we listen to the voice from the grave, that bids us set our house in order, to work while the day lasts, to have our lamps trimmed and burning, our loins girt, our work for eternity done, and be thus waiting and watching for the coming of our Lord.

There are some hints in your last which are important but we cannot consider them now, but hope to be able to do it in some future communications, and must beg your indulgence. May the God of providence and grace, who gives and takes away life, quicken us all in duty, direct all our inquiries and forbid in mercy, that all the discoveries of the moral desolations of the earth, should be made in vain.

Hoping to hear from you soon, and resting confident of an interest in your prayers, We are dear Brethren

Yours in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel

By order of the Soc'y of Eng.'s

J. Sanford
Cor. Sec.

copy of a letter to the Rev. Pliny Fisk American Missionary
eldest member of the Palestine Mission

Theological Seminary Princeton Sept. 10th 1822

Dear Brother.

The "society of inquiry on Missions" has assigned to me the very pleasant duty of opening a correspondence with the Palestine Missionaries, & you will allow me to direct my letter to you as the oldest of them. We know that your engagements must be numerous and pressing, and we should not think of increasing them by asking an occasional letter from you, did we not feel so very lively an interest in your mission, and did we not hope that your communications might be blessed to our important and rising institution. We have taken a still deeper interest in your mission, since Brother Goodell (who is to be ordained at New-Haven tomorrow) gave us the pleasure of a few hours visit. Since we saw him we have had something visible upon which to fix our affections, and we have accordingly permitted ourselves to love him ardently. And now do not blame us if we consider this as a fair specimen of the Palestine Missionaries, and bestow on you all the same degree of sincere and affectionate regard. And we will certainly not permit ourselves to fear that it will prove as in Paul's case, that the more abundantly we love you the less we shall be loved.

But perhaps while we are speaking thus in the language of christian friendship we are only renewing in your mind the painful recollection of the friend you have lost. It was indeed a loss; nor were you the only loser. There are many, in this land, praying for the peace of Jerusalem, to whom it was a mysterious and painful dispensation; and especially at this time when he was just beginning to be useful; But we have found it good to recollect that the LORD took him, & he knows what is best. Your dear Brother seemed indeed to be so peculiarly qualified for his work that we should have thought it would be for the glory of GOD to spare him long, but we are ignorant. He had finished the work that was assigned him and why should he stay? The LORD had need of him elsewhere perhaps — and why should we not let him go? True it was a sore breach on a band of 2 or 3 - but

God can easily supply his place. Certainly the same Almighty power which could once have raised up children to Abraham from the stones of Judea, could now if necessary raise up missionaries for Abraham's children from the men of Alexandria. and in regard to our Brother it was a merciful arrangement, we have thought which took him to Jerusalem and granted to him before he died a privelege which was denied to Moses that of treading upon the consecrated "land of Promise"!

And we hope dear Brother that his loss is abundantly supplied to you by his blessed Master. Doubtless the Saviour is still in that region, and we hope you have found him, and that you often hear him saying to you as he did to his desciples "Let not your heart be troubled—neither let it be afraid" "Fear not only believe"! But the hint is perhaps unnecessary. We trust that the LORD hath not given you the spirit of fear; but of power and of a strong mind and that you will keep your eye upon the Canaanite who is still in the land, and in the name of the LORD will overcome them—yea in the name of the LORD overcome them. And, that you may do this keep clear of the accursed thing whatever it be. Yes if we thought your heart your heart was like ours, we could not but exhort you above all things sin not. For if there should happen to be an Achan anywhere concealed in your camp it is probably that even the little city of Ai would stop your progress.—But here again perhaps the hint is unnecessary. We hope that the same Saviour who had compassion on that poor Syrophenecian so as to expel the Devil from her daughter, has cast him out of your hearts. O that he would have compassion on us also in these ends of the Earth!! We hope you will find some time to pray for us. We are exceedingly deficient in piety. Perhaps there may be a little faith among us like a grain of mustard seed, but we have not yet recieved that degree of Unction from the Holy One which is necessary to make us examples of Holy living; and we cannot but hope that the LORD for Zion's sake will not send us forth without it.

You have no doubt heard of the gracious visitations of the Holy Spirit with which many parts of this country have been blessed during the present year. A very considerable number of congregations in this State, in Pennsylvania in Delaware and in Virginia are in

an excited state and in many of them there are from 50 to 100 hopeful converts. surely the LORD is good to our Israel — He hath not dealt so with any nation. But why should these blessings be confined to us? Surely when we think of the mercy which God hath shown to Palestine century after century; it cannot be vain & chimerical to expect that he should again water that land with the showers of his grace. We do hope Dear Brother that before we die we shall be permitted to hear of a re-vival of religion in Judea; and for this — "the consola-tion of Israel" we will wait like the devout Simeon. and for it too we may promise you we will try and pray. And so far as your labours and prayers are necessary we ~~do~~ are ready to believe they will not be wanting. And now according to the direction we would affectionatly exhort you to be diligent and faithful and we fervently pray that you may be successful in building up the walls of Jerusalem and when you have done may you be permitted to enter in through the gates into the city; eternally to rest in some happy mansion prepared for your reception. Please to remember us affectionately to Brother and Sister Temple, and if your engagements will permit you write to us soon.

In behalf of the society of Inquiry respecting Missions } James Douglass 4th cor-g Sec.y

Princeton Feby. 1st 1824

To the Students of the Miss. Sem. Gosport -

Respected Brethren,

We acknowledge in our collective capacity the receipt of your communication dated July last, and hasten to reciprocate all your kind declarations & express our unfeigned thanks for this second proof of your fraternal affection - descended as we are from the same ancestors, speaking the same language & professing to be actuated by the same sublime sentiments wh. our common master breathed - your friendly voice is listened to by us with the tenderest partiality. We are more & more convinced of the benefit to be derived from this correspondence - as your avocations will be so circumstantially varied & your sphere of operation so extensive, that our stock of knowledge must be proportionally enlarged - its auspicious commencement is indicative of that expansion of soul wh. anihilates intervening space & surmounts all obstacles to a union with those who derive their spiritual aliment from the Alter of God. Our earliest associations are connected with your enlightened land & our youthful days have been cheered by the biography of those devoted men who have endured hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Xt. - When we view ourselves as an insulated band we sink into despondency, but when we recollect what impediments to the diffusion of light & life Providence has removed in your favoured country - how he has rendered her the Bulwark of the world - invulnerable from her situation - commanding from her influence & fostering by her resources so many valuable institutions - when we read of your final release from that spiritual domination wh. enthrals the soul, our faith is confirmed that elsewhere the humblest instrument will be honoured & that the moral renovation will be progressive - We wait with anxiety to see yr. final result of the exertions wh. are making on our own frontiers to Xtnize yr. Indian tribes & reclaim their wandering steps - Aged

warriors have been heard to confess ye hardness of their hearts – they have pleaded in behalf of their children for ye continuance of ye gos. & their tears have flowed from their apprehension of its loss – This object & another viz. the redemption of our country from ye curse of slavery now occupy ye attention of our philanthropists – but here are mountains wh. mortals cannot remove. The mind recoils dejected with every effort & dissatisfied with every plan. The Lord who shone out of darkness only knows when he will shine into ye hearts of men & break at once this triple chain.

There is one cheering circumstance connected with this object – the inhabitants in every section of our country feel themselves equally liable to ye imputation of this national calamity & equally responsible for ye execution of this arduous work. There is a feeling of sympathy wh. consolidates our union & points to a favourable result. Indeed in ye face of all these discouragements we have no more doubt that these movements will terminate in the permanent benefit of the oppressed, than we have that all nations will finally come to ye brightness of the redeemers rising – both undertakings are alike hopeless in themselves considered.

Brethren, it is peculiarly gratifying to observe your members augmenting by yearly accessions. the foremost ranks of the Lord's host. They are standing on ye confines of China to declare Christ Jesus to the millions who are waiting for his law – May the Lord of all grace grant unto others such a constraining love for souls that they too may see the signs of the times & tread in their steps – "but this kind goeth not out except by prayer & fasting" – We must be not only prayerful & watchful – but watchful servants – we must feel so weak so powerless as flesh & blood cannot reveal – but our Father who is in Heaven – We thank you dear Brethren for your advice in accordance with our request concerning the course of conduct wh. we should pursue. The direction of Br

most High cannot be known except by communion with the Father of lights. God is not confined to persons & times in his selections - but can cause the very stones to speak for his praise. Nevertheless to be lulled into security by the reflection that all must be spiritually discerned would be criminal in us. Although the footsteps of the almighty are often in the deep - his hand may be marked directing his servants to the spheres of their labours. Oh that we could say with respect to ourselves that flagrant vice & religious formality had taken flight & but unbelief assumes a variety of forms - from the cold hearted professor down to the man of blood - But there are many encouragements - The American Bib. Society invites all who call themselves Christians to cooperate in the glorious work - and it is pleasing to remark that few can resist the call. The fruitless efforts of its enemies have cemented the union of its friends - Its munificence has been felt in the Wastes of South America - nor have the destitute of our secluded villages been disregarded. There are many presbyteries within the bounds of the Gen. Assembly who show show by their efforts that they consider themselves as bodies organized for the edification of the Body of Xt. They have formed themselves into Missionary societies - have devoted their time to visitation, & contributed liberally to the erection of churches & the building up of the waste places within their bounds - There is now a great anxiety evinced in the Western states for the organization of churches & the settlement of regular pastors - The ardent character & intriguing habits exhibited in those rising states is great - Skepticism & infidelity are disappearing before the light of the Gos. - and the heathenish practices of the first settlers are generally marked with opprobrium - Whilst the current of feeling is turning, such inviting prospects should be occupied in the name of the Lord Jesus. The power of God has been manifested during the past year by humbling the rigid moralist & reclaiming the open transgressor - Four hundred & seven

congregations are reported as having shared the
divine influences. The number of those who have
passed from death unto life in these revivals is
estimated at more than 26.000 — We have recent in-
telligence that a range of towns in Conn. have been
visited from the presence of the Lord — 1500 hopefully con-
verted — 800 of whom have united with the congre-
gational chhs. The hands of the Missionaries at the
Sandwich Islands have been strengthened by a
deputation from their Evg. brethren. Their
restoration to their family although exposed to many
dangers manifests the superintending care of an
indulgent providence. We are anxious to hear
of the arrival of our brethren who sailed from this
country to join them at that station. The increase
of vital religion at Geneva is truly life from
the dead. The deplorable state of Holland & the
abounding errors of Germany lead us to believe that
there is rather the form than the power of
godliness. It is remarkable that most of those coun-
tries where the Reformers struggled, & the primitive
Xns bled are now enveloped in thick darkness.
As the Catholic chh. relapses into the temporal pover-
ty of the first ages. may we not discern the benign
spirit of cooperation with Bible institutions? In
the Mediterranean, Missionaries acknowledge
their prelates as auxiliaries. In Spain, we ob-
serve the Bishop of Barcelona is preparing a
superior edition of the Bib. Twenty-five thou-
sand copies of wh. are printed. There is reason
to believe that the same love divine wh. is to
break the chains of the East, will also melt the ice
apathy of the West. That old establishment
will be reformed & beautified while the strong hold
of heathenism are invaded. South America
has peculiar claims on the United States. A
distinguished gentleman has expressed an opinion
that a Bib. Society might be formed there. Five
hundred copies of the Bib. were sold in one day. Should
opposition to the Catholic chh. keep pace with
the advancement of freedom & the overgrown
establishments be destroyed, unbounded licen-
tiousness must succeed unless the generous prin-

ciples of the Got. are introduced. There will then be employment for more Missionaries than the Xtn world can furnish. When the influence of the Spirit are imparted, the exhortations of Missionaries whether European or American will not be received as idle tales. The Seminary at Andover wh. you mention in your letter, has been distinguished for the devotedness of its Missionaries. There have left our Seny. during the past year thirty two students. Our present number amounts to one hundred & twelve.

Accept of our thanks, dear Brethren, that we are remembered in your prayers. Pray for us that we may forget ourselves & think of the millions that are perishing for lack of knowledge — that our motto may be "not our will but thine, O Lord, be done". Peradventure the Lord may honour us as the instruments of rescuing tho. it be a few souls from destruction. "though poor - making many rich - & having nothing yet possessing all things". Christ must increase - let us then decrease by resolving all other considerations into this question - Are we seeking Christ's glory?

Accept, dear Brethren, this sincere expression of our desires for the prosperity of your institution & the furtherance of all your benevolent plans.

On behalf of the Society of Enquiry
E. Hasara Snowden Cor. Secy

Jan 1st 1824

To the members of the Theo. Sem. in N.Y.

Dear Brethren.

It is many years since the ~~society~~ students of this institution formed themselves into a society denominated "The Society of inquiry on Missions." The name of this association will suggest the main object for which it was formed. Altho. its first members are widely scattered in the world, we their successors find it to be both pleasant & profitable to maintain their custom. - which was to meet the first day

of each month during the term of study to give & receive information on the great subject of Missions. By our Secretaries we are accustomed to maintain a correspondence with all the Theo. Sem. in our own country & with most of the important religious institutions in other countries. In the same manner we obtain information from several missionary stations both domestic & foreign. By this means we are favored with direct information from those institutions & stations which may be denominated the central points of religious exertion. We have contemplated with no small degree of interest the establishment & increase of your institution.

We congratulate you on the success which has attended the efforts of your Church to establish that Seminary of which you are members. & would join with you in our common supplication to Almighty God. That he would it a blessing to the Church of Christ & the world.

We are not sufficiently acquainted with your internal regulations to know whether or not you have formed any association among yourselves corresponding in its general object with our own. We presume, however, that before this time, experience may have suggested the propriety of some such method to facilitate the acquisition of missionary intelligence. Living as you do in a large city, the opportunity, which you have to obtain recent information upon the subject of missions, is greater than that, wh. we enjoy. But the utility of a regular association of this kind, so far from being lessened, is greatly increased by the abundance of recent intelligence on this interesting subject - and the ease with wh. it is acquired.

But the increase & concentration of religious intelligence is not the only advantage wh. our society affords. With the increase of knowledge, & by the blessing of God, many of the religious affections are called into exercise. When we see the gospel of Jesus Christ spreading through the nations, the truth gaining fresh conquest over error at home & superstition abroad, the union of affection & effort among Christians of every name in the cause of the Bible, of human happiness, of God's glory, our

whole society rejoices in the goodness of God. "This is the Lord's doing, & it is wonderous in our eyes." It is in the providence of God that we see the new display of his faithfulness to the promises of his word. These taken together afford a demonstration to faith, that not one jot or tittle shall fail of all the good that God has promised to his church. The seed of Abraham came in the fullness of times - but one part of the promise is not yet wholly fulfilled. All nations are not yet blessed in him. It is by patiently observing the providence of God respecting the church that hope is strengthened. The simple word of God is indeed the foundation of faith, we may be mistaken respecting the bearing, wh. particular events may have upon the fulfilment of his promise. But some things are too plain to be mistaken. Who can hesitate to say, that the Bible Society of your city is the work of God? Its progress & prosperity are not to be accounted for, without supposing the special blessing of the King of Zion. So we may say of numberless other institutions, wh. have within late years arisen thro' the christian world. "These things hath the Lord wrought." These are the things respecting wh. we inquire; & in wh. so far as we see their prosperity, we rejoice, because by them the faithfulness, mercy, power, & love of God & our Saviour are displayed.

Our society, moreover, is conducive to an increase of fraternal feeling towards the members of the various institutions with wh. we correspond. Those who serve under the same great Master do well to be acquainted. Especially as our common Lord is our common Saviour. A similarity of pursuit - of employment - of interest - of hopes - of rewards, supposes a similarity of motive & feeling. But unless the objects, towards wh. our charity & christian sympathy should flow, be in some way presented to us in that relation, wh. calls forth affection, it is impossible to exercise either. The frequent & familiar intercourse of christians, is the best method of producing & increasing christian affection. But it is impossible for all christians to be personally acquainted. The best substitute for individual acquaintence, is friendly correspondence on subjects interesting to both parties: And as the great subject of missions abounds with topicks interesting to us all - & especially as the love, mercy, goodness, & providence of our common Lord, are rich in all that can call forth the charity of those who serve each other. in all that can encourage us in our ~~future~~ studies, & support us in our future labours - in all that shall raise & support for ever the joys of heaven. Since these things are so, we hope you will do us the pleasure of your correspondence. We cannot promise you much information, as your facilities for obtaining

it, are better than ours. We indulge the hope that you will be able to give us much, that we cannot get from any other quarter; & this itself will be a source of greater to you, than the communications wh. we shall be punctual to make. But the principal object wh. we propose to ourselves, is an increase of that love for Christs flock, wh. our Lords command & Zion's peace require us to entertain to all who in every place call upon the name of the Lord Jesus; both theirs & ours. By the blessing of God upon our correspondence, this happy result may be obtained; which with the love of God in Christ, we pray, may be the portion of each of you, & of each of yours.

In behalf of the Socity of Inquiry respecting Missions,
Yours respectfully S.B. Perley.
1. Corr. Secretary.

Princeton Theo. Semy Sept 1st 1823.

To Mr Alfred Cobb, Lima, S. America.

Dear Friend & Brother

Your request thro' a letter to Brothers Stebbins & Loder for a correspondence with our "Socy of Enquiry on Missions" was duly rec'd & cordially acceded to. The Socy accordingly orderd a communication to be made to you, Sir, but owing to the absence of the proper cor. Secretary, it has been undesignedly delayed. We are ever ready, dear Brother, to mingle our sympathies with those of the friends of Zion in every situation & in every clime, in view of the moral degradation & wretchedness of our species wherever the Gospel is not known at all, or its pure light obscured by the mists of bigotry & the whole black array of human inventions & perversions. And it being our professed object, & we trust our sincere desire, to unite our prayers, our counsels, & our enquiries with all who love our Lord Jesus Ht, in order, by the blessing of heaven, to remove this appalling darkness & misery, & spread abroad the light of life & salvation, we are ever happy to receive intelligence relative to this important end. Painful as it is to look abroad upon the moral desolations of our world & contemplate the

extensive reign of the Prince of darkness, yet it is necessary to examine his usurped dominions & strong holds, the more easily to rescue the one & demolish the other. But we know who is our Leader & under whose banner we fight in this warfare & therefore may go forward confident of ultimate success & victory. Jesus shall reign until all his enemies are put under his feet. The heathen shall be given to him for an inheritance & the uttermost part of the earth for a possession. Here then is our encouragment to labour & hope for the extension of the Redeemers Kingdom thro' every land this is our encouragment in regard to the land where Providence has cast your Lot for a time: yet we cannot but lament with you the truly deplorable condition of the inhabitants of S. America. For tho' they cannot properly be called heathen, yet their situation may, in some respects be considered as worse than that of the heathen, being sunk in ignorance & bigotry & chains there by Papal tyranny. But may we not hope that the judgment of war & bloodshed wh. has so long rested upon them, will eventuate in something better than even civil Liberty — that it will in a measure remove the shackles of superstition & ignorance & thus prepare the way for the entrance of Gospel light & Gospel liberty. It is the prerogative of God to bring good out of evil & for the accomplishment of his purposes, to break his "enemies" with a rod of iron & dash them in pieces like a potters vessel. We fear however that very little can as yet be done by any direct means to enlighten the benighted population of that country. Whatever is to be done must, humanly speaking, be done by degrees & with the greatest caution. The jealousy with wh. the Rom. Catholic faith is guarded requires this — yet something may, & we trust, will soon be done to weaken the power of the man of sin, & to diminate the pure & holy principles of the Prince of life & Salvation. May not considerable be done even now by a prudent circulation of Bibles & Tracts — & permit us to inquire may not your situation be favourable for doing something in this way, tho' we know not but you may be already thus engaged in the good work, for being in business you would be much less liable to suspicion, than a person who should make this his principal object. It will doubtless be gratifying to you to learn that two young men, one from this Seminary & the other from Andover have been commissioned by the Am.n board of C. F. M. to go to S. America. (Our)

They have probably sailed before this — we understand, tho' but little has been publickly said about it, that the principal object is to explore & ascertain what may be done. — May the God of Heaven direct their way & open an effectual door to them, & thro them, to all who shall imbibe their spirit & follow their example, that thus the Gospel may have free course & be glorified, where now tho acknowledged, its true principles are neither felt nor inculcated. We have nothing of special interest to communicate with regard to our favoured country, except that we have reason to fear that it is not so richly blessed this year with powerful revivals of Religion as it has been for a few years past. Yet we are not left without the intelligence of many precious seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. We shall anticipate, Sir, much satisfaction from your communications. May you have grace to be faithful to our common Redeemer & to "let your light shine" in the midst of that crooked & perverse nation. — We are dear Sir in the bonds of christian affection

Yours &c Joseph Myers Sec. Pa. Sem.

Princeton Theo. Sem.y March 1st. 1824

To the Seminary at Auburn

Dear Brethren,

We cannot but rejoice with you, in the prosperity of your institution; & from our own experience, we know something of that happiness which flows from the society brethren who dwell together in unity. May this felicity continue & increase in your institution & the one to which we belong. We are glad to hear by your letter that the Lords work is made to prosper in churches in your vicinity — we have reason to mourn while we state the fact that no such visible success attends the preached word in our vicinity. In times not long past many parts of N. J. were visited in a most gracious manner by the author of saving influences & converting grace; but of late no unusual excitement has been felt in our state. In those places which have been favoured

, the evidence of past mercy is corroborated by the continuance of needed graces & so far as we are acquainted, the conversation & practice of the majority of those who are called gives us ground to believe that their calling was from God, whose gifts & calling are without repentance. No doubt the ingratitude of those who have been so highly favoured is offensive to him who will be praised for his wonderful work to the children of men. We are not strangers to that incessant call of the destitute parts of our country for some to come & break to them the bread of life. It appears by your letter that the hungry are addressing their piteous cries to you also. your experience will corroborate the remark that these calls excite emotions of pity mingled with joy - pity because so few are prepared to run to their relief - few able faithful shepherds who can go to collect these lost sheep - who in imitation of the great Shepherd are tender enough to collect the lambs - & joy because these calls throw that the Lord God of grace is causing a general sensation among our fellow men in favour of his gospel. Because such calls are the best assurance next to his own promise that if he sends us forth we shall be successful. If the Lord thus prepares a willing people - it will be delightful to the sincere minister to engage in the work. How different was the lot of Jeremiah. Gird up thy loins, said God and arise & speak unto them all that I command thee; be not dismayed at their faces lest I confound thee before them. They shall fight against thee. We should be disposed to plead off as Jer. did if the Lord's work was now to root out - pull down & destroy & throw down the nations." But thanks to God our commission will be to reap that on which we bestowed no labour & perhaps to sow in the wilderness where others shall at some future day enter into our labours. The Lord grant then that we may listen to these repeated calls with compassion on the needy and thanks to the Lord in whom are hid all

the treasures of wisdom & knowledge.

We have not much recent intelligence either foreign or domestic which you may not obtain in the papers of the day. In Dec. we had a letter from the Rev. Mr Fisk miss. in Palestine. He urges the propriety of undertaking a mission to S. A. He thinks it rests with the U.S. church to evangelise that continent. & calls upon us to think of the means & agents by which this object may be attained. We would take the opportunity to suggest the same subject to you. The work is a great one — all our united efforts will be quite little enough to begin it. You are acquainted with the political revolutions which have occurred in the Spanish provinces of S. A. Altho. some of the provinces have been recognised by our gov. as Independent yet they are far from peace & quietness. Indeed if the continental powers proceed as many anticipate S. A. will be the seat of long & dangerous wars. But let these political movements be as God shall direct. if any door be opened we ought to be ready to enter. Miss. efforts are not likely to succeed so well in a land of war yet as the people are in state of revolution may not christianity in the protestant form be made to bear upon the national character to be assumed afterwards. If we could by our missionaries overthrow the Inquisition & help in forming a constitution free in its political character & tolerating in its religious we should do much for the church & the world. You are perhaps informed that one from our Sem. (Mr Parvin) & one from Andover have been gone for more than a year to in S. A. We have not heard from them at all. We have had one or two letters from a Agent in Lima (Mr Cobb) from which we are encouraged to hope that the Gospel might be propagated there. Let us unite in watching the movements of Providence towards S. A. and praying that Lord of the world would bless the inhabitants of that

great continent by turning them from dumb Idols & popish errors unto the living God that he would use us if he please in the labours & trials of the work.

In Jan. we received a letter from the Theo. Sem. of the Scotch church established at Glasgow. There are in that institution at present one hund. & 63 students the princi= =ple professor is Dr. Dick. the term of study necessary to a regular course 5 years. We are much pleased with the benevolent liberal missionary spirit which exists, if we may judge from their letters in that seminary. The union of the two branches of the Scotch ch. which took place nearly two years since has been productive of much good in that part of the Island. Oh. that the healer of breaches in Zion & the restorer of paths to dwell in would come to prepare all his church for union & to make it one as his name & praise are one all over the earth. Our Institution con= =tinues to flourish by the blessing of God we see those who have gone out from us doing good in the world. health prevails among us & our professors. Let your prayers ascend with ours for peace within the walls of Zion & the Lord's glory to arise upon her &c.

Yours—

Princeton Theological Sem.y May 1st 1824

To the Missionaries at Jerusalem

Dear Brethren

Your letter dated June 1823 was received and read with no small degree of interest by our Society. The mere fact that it was penn'd on a spot of such sacred and delightful associations afforded us pleasure & that was greatly enhanced by the important considerations which it embodied — Standing as you do on the hill of Zion & of Calvary, & from the north, the south the east & the west beholding nothing but one vast desolation, we do not wonder that your letter was chiefly of an exhortatory Character. Little can we conceive of the feelings of a Missionary as he surveys the wants of the heathen on the one hand, and the inadequacy of supply on the other. We hear the reiterated appeal, but 'tis the eye which affecteth the heart. The principal part of your letter related to the importance of establishing a mission in South America - We concur with you that in point of interest no Country perhaps Can surpass it. We also believe that national prejudices as well as proximity, render the call upon us more imperative, than upon any other nation. S.A. as you may know has not been unobserved, & unattended to, by Missionary Societies of our Country. They have kept a steady eye upon it, & are only waiting a more settled state of political affairs to decide what plans of benevolence are most feasible in regard to it. Already have two or three pioneers been dispatched for information - We hope that ere long the noise of battle will cease, nor can we help praying that the yoke of ecclesiastical & political oppression may be broken, & that liberty may unbar the door for the triumphant entrance of Christianity. Although Missionary enterprize in our Seminary is at a low ebb, yet we would fain hope, should affairs in S. A., render the introduction of evangelism, expedient, that there are men here, who would spring forwards with alacrity & promptly say "here Lord am I send me". We believe that many of us acquire an indifference to missionary enterprize from not being placed in circumstances to call it forth. The soldier of true courage may repose in inglorious sloth, he wants the of alarm to break on his ear. We profess in this Seminary to be girding on the armour, but we have fallen asleep in the act. Let your letters dear Brethren be the bell to arouse us.

In your next Communication, we should be gratified, if you would give us some facts respecting Persia as a Missionary field, also of Arabia, of Egypt, & the Countries about the Caspian — From your situation, we presume you must be able to collate many important particulars respecting the moral Condition of those places, a detail of which will be highly interesting to us. Our Seminary was never, as to the number of Students more flourishing than at present. There are about 120 on our Catalogue. The interests of religion throughout our Country are on the advance. As you probably receive many religious publications, the necessity of detail is superceded — We have only to add our prayers, for your welfare & success, and to solicit yours in return for us that we may do the work of evangelists & make full proof of our Ministry, and at last shine as Stars in the Kingdom of God forever.

We are dear Brethren, Yours in the best of bonds

For the Society J. B. Waterbury
(signed by E. J.)

To the Brethren at
Andover

Princeton March 1824

Dear Brethren

The judicious remarks contained in your last communication, upon the general object & present prospects of the colonization Society met with our cordial approbation. The condition of that part of our population, whose welfare that Society so ardently seeks is, as you say, doubly distressed. The people of colour are pressed hardly by man, & his captive, in a most hopeless captivity by Satan. To deliver one million & a half of our species, from this double bondage is an effort worthy the noblest mind & purest heart; to fail in such an effort is noble; to gain partial success is cheering; to desire it sincerely is cause of thankfulness, for the desire is from God. The miserable condition of a large majority of our free persons of colour, is a satisfactory demonstration, that our country is not the ~~country~~ place for freemen. We cannot be denied the boasted privilege of calling our land, the home of freemen but a manumitted slave & a freeman are very different. He is not half free who is degraded in his habits & intellect who is disqualified for stations of usefulness & trust who in the retrospect of his ancestry sees nothing but obscurity ignorance & bondage. This being the fact we agree with you in approving the plan of colonization in Africa

But this great work cannot be performed in an age, it therefore becomes a question of great importance & demanding a prompt answer, How may we benefit those, who, tho we have provided for their colonization, can never see that promised land? But a few of the present generation can see Africa, While we as wise men devise plans which shall benefit posterity, to prove our sincerity we must do good to our contemporaries.
The means by which this may be done are not less important than the ends in the extent of their influence. To enlighten & purify the minds of the present

generation is a most desirable object, altho it is not so sublime as to emancipate, enlighten & restore Posterity.

You direct our attention to the subject of a free School for the Blacks. Whether you refer to any such School now established, or only to the propriety of taking measures to establish one or more, we cannot tell. We know of no publick free school for people of Colour except one at Tuckahanna in this State under the care of the Rev. Mr Ford. Mr Ford is appointed by the Presb. of N Jersey to superintend the care of pious young men of Colour for the Gospel Ministry, if satisfactory evidence appears of suitable talents & piety. This little Seminary has not been established long enough to give it a settled character in the estimation of the Public. Its patrons, so far as we are informed, are encouraged to continue their efforts, & we hope it may do much good to the country. But we cannot hope to see free schools existing in those States in which slavery is patronized. While the feeling which now exists in the slave holding States, prevails, a free school for the black cannot be established. The time of slaves is not their own either to study at home or learn abroad. The slaveholder would not allow his servants to pass beyond his premises for this purpose. And if some should be willing such a school would be liable to disturbance from those who are appointed by law to keep guard over both town & country. If a free school be established it must be done without the borders of the slave States. But suppose young men of Colour to be educated in this country & licensed to preach they never will be received in the Slave States. Such a man would be suspected at once in the South, & the slave holders would not suffer their servants to attend the ministrations of a man of colour, who had been well educated in the North or west. We know there are preachers of the class of servants in the South, but they are as perfectly slaves as those to whom they preach. They are as ignorant & as capable of intrigue as the rest & yet they are received with suspicion. We therefore entertain but little hope from the advantages to be derived from the public free schools in any form. They cannot be established where they are most needed & those who may be educated in them here cannot find admittance

to their brethren where they might be most useful. Still let us educate as many as possible they may be sent to the Colony with light & Salvation. But in our opinion none but our most pious, prudent clergymen can gain access to the slaves in their bondage. This throws the responsible charge of carrying salvation to the present generation of slaves upon us.

Our zeal to meliorate the condition & elevate the character of the slaves should be accompanied with strenuous exertions to remove the prejudices & break down the unfeeling habits of the Slaveholder. This requires labor time & patience Men are not to be transformed in a day. Their opinions may be false. Their habits of thinking & acting unreasonable. Their prejudices contrary to truth & benevolence. But we must deal with men as we find them. It betrays an ignorance of human nature to expect the same opinions & feelings in men who have been differently educated. Every man may retort the charge of prejudice, illiberality & false education. We put it therefore to be a difficult thing to attack the long established customs & principles of the Slaveholder, even though we are certain that truth justice & benevolence are against him, & we suppose the first step towards a favorable issue in the business of colonization & the illumination of the blacks is the illumination of the master & his emancipation from from his fathers opinions & feelings. which is the greater work we dare not say, but take both together & & we conceive no work more difficult, more noble or more meritorious.

Your letter upon the present struggle of the Greeks came to hand. We have indulged our patriotic feelings not only in reading with joy the the history of Grecian success, but in contributing a a little to the fund now raising for that oppressed people But we did not wholly approve of the plan, which you proposed for the appropriation of the sum raised to Literary Institutions. We suppose it best to have the mode of appropriation wholly to the option of those who receive our charity. Let them gain their liberty & then if they need literary institutions we will aid them if possible. We had little to give & we felt no desire to singular in the restrictions accompanying our mite Why Colleges & Seminaries should distinguish their donations we know not. Our Fathers gave to aid the Greeks

in fighting for their lives & homes, we their Sons cast into the same fund without any peculiar restrictions. We do not however bring any charge against those who acted diferently. But a full disclosure of your plan seemed to call for a reciprocal statement of ours. We shall make only one remark farther. Since the subject of Grecian Independence has begun to agitate our country we think the Ministers of the Gospel have manifested too great an interest in the mere political affairs of nations. The affairs of Spain first gave the impulse At the same time South America called us to witness their struggles & since to acknowledge her independence. Of late the Greeks have appealed to us - we were ready to hear their appeal, & though our National Legislature has been cautious, we the people have run before our leaders. Now, go where you will, the perfidy of Ferdinand - The intrigue of the Holy Alliance - the growing pride of Alexander The decreasing of the Porte's influence &c. &c. are the principal topics of conversations. Ministers prepare addresses & open their ~~[illegible]~~ churches for contributions. And why not? Must the Ball room open its doors for Grecian Independence & the Church be shut? Where is Christian benevolence? This is the Language of Public practice. It is a question which needs to be carefully studied, How far we should join in the public Huzza for Greece - the land of Homer the favorite of our youthful studies.

In behalf of the Society of Enquiry respecting Missions Yours &c S. B. Pressley

Scripsit Watson

1st cor Sect

Princeton March 1st 1824

Dear Brethren.

The most pure feelings of scriptural fellowship have been excited by your communication. We hasten to give you our pledge of Christian affection. Renew our fraternal covenant. The wrestling may forget his lordly forbearance, when the chains of dependence are broken, the soldier may forget his comrade, but the Christian disciple cannot forget his fellow travellers, who are struggling thro' this vale of sighs animated by the great promise that "their labor shall not be in vain in the Lord." We cannot forget your labor of love in that you have supplied our lack of knowledge towards you — That our appeal to you should be so promptly met and that your answer should come fraught with so many interesting facts, call for our warmest acknowledgments. Your sentence of approval has added one more to the numerous testimonies that our object of collecting and disseminating information by acting in our organized capacity is not unattainable. "But we should seek greater things than these." Preparation from its very definition is of minor importance. "When the trumpet gives the certain sound" we should form the line of efficient operation, and "in the name of the Lord set up our banners." But in this as in every other undertaking we love to say "Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it." and it is this precious fact that gives the strengthening hope that by means so powerless in themselves as these are, "there will be joy in heaven" "Let us look to the Father of lights."

You mention that your church has repented of her past divisions and is now consolidating her strength. When some of the excrescences, which your Sacred Polity may have collected from the dust of ages, shall have been removed its most interesting features may be retained, and a tenfold efficiency imparted to all its wholesome provisions. To achieve its establishment your Fathers ventured into the field and for its restoration you and your illustrious cotemporaries will still contend. As there is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, the Church of Scotland has been truly styled glorious. At her altars many faithful Stewards have served who are now engaged in the

Temple service above —
You may be aware that some emanations of her ~~spiritual~~ ministerial brightness have reached us. Here a venerable clergy who have never sold their birthrights, trace their origin, to your sa:cred seats. This Seminary is the result of their combined efforts. May we not hope while the Pagan hills are breaking forth into singing, that Scotland will arise and ~~as~~ assert her unali:anable right to select her spiritual guides; such men as will cease to speculate, and a:rise to be intelligable. How influential the suggestions of conscience, and the injunctions of orthodox standards, when enforced with power from the sacred desk. If some of your venerable reformers should reappear on earth who could endure the thought, that their sen:timents, might exclude them from a Currency or that they must pass through the ordeal of a presentation. Those were prosperous days for Scotland when her ministers, expounded a Chapter as a to their morning service.

As for our state we have many things to write; but they are either known to you or are unimportant. You have heard, that the Society in Scotland for the "diffusion of Christi:an knowledge, which has laboured so persever:ingly to meliorate the condition of our long neglected Aborigines, has now many auxilia:ries in this country, united if not in name yet really in design and action. Impressions have been made, the missionaries have had seals of their ministry, but it will be long ere the wilderness will be changed into the fruit:ful field. While the fervour of the heart is evaporated in the external Pageantry, while the eye of benevolence, is averted from its own mo:ral wretchedness, when communion with God is attended to after a most protracted conflict, it is not to be presumed that the religious world is yet awake, or that the rays reflected from such a surface will speedily illumine the benighted nation

It seems unnecessary to inform you, that Sectarian animosities are subsiding, and our Christian publick are moving forward - Christians are here following though it may be a great way off the noble examples which has been placed before them by other countries. The rising generation is instructed, the ordinances are administered, Bible, Missionary, Peace, marine, and Literary associations are not neglected. The Land has often overshadowed the mercy seat: and by imparting immediate blessings to his ministering servants, evinced his unchanging faithfulness. In the days when the posterity of the Puritans now dwell, when the most alarming errors are prevalent, and the enemies seemed to come in like a flood, then "the Spirit of the Lord has lifted up a standard against them". Many churches that have remained steadfast in the Apostles doctrine, dwelling in the secret place of the most High, have found a a truth that they were abiding under the shadow of the Almighty. They have engaged the early and the latter rain" while others have slept. In other sections of the union the Lord has not left himself without a witness. The efforts of the humbler instruments have been blessed, parochial visitations, associations of devout females, for prayer, the exertions of pious beneficiaries preparing for the sacred office, above all the practical preaching of the word might be enumerated. "The Lord alone knoweth them that are his" but the number of apparent converts during the past year is estimated at about Twenty six thousand. In one section thirteen hundred have in the judgment of Charity been added to the Lord of whom eight hundred have united with the visible Church. Ten Theological Seminaries have been established, some of which, from the want of adequate funds have but a nominal existence. There are five hundred Theological Students at various seminaries prosecuting their course and more than three thousand young men at the colleges which confer degrees. There are about nine thousand Pre-

ces of public worship. In the 7882 common schools, of N. York, 400,000 children are expanding their minds. In England one fifteenth of the population is publicly instructed. In this State one fourth part of the entire population is embraced in common schools alone. The objects which remain to be noticed as dividing the attention of this Community are various. Its movements are eccentrick. Sometimes there is weeping when the dismantled walls of Zion are remembered. The Scriptures are distributed churches are dedicated, missions are supported, the poor have the Gospel preached, the hand of charity is full and overflowing. even the wretchedness of the Morea is not unfelt. The "winter is seemingly past, the rain is over and gone". But the appearance of some error faintly resembling the truth soon changes the scene. These heresies do not agreeably to their poisonous nature creep upon the ground and hide themselves in the dusk, they are openly avowed. The exertions already made to discover the signs of the times in South America promise eventually the desired information. Two missionaries, one from our ranks have arrived at Buenos Ayres, Africa you perceive, has been penetrated on the South & North by missionaries who may soon meet at the the Nile. Tributary streams are flowing into the grand Bible reservoir and watering that "tree whose leaves are for the healing of the nations. We may look forward to the period as not for distant, when the Mediterranean Missionaries will sit down with their own oriental brethren on the banks of the Indies and remember no more for joy the dangers they have passed. If the missionary fall he shall rise again in his Saviour likeness. Mean while the hand of Providence can precipitate others forward glowing with intense desire to stand where they stood, or fall where they fell. The last generation had a distant view of the missionary landscape we survey & perhaps unmoved and they rejoyed in hope. Theirs was the life of

prayer ours of action, may the next blend them both in one, then one more shall usher in the latter day glory.

Dear Bretheren, It may be said that our correspondence is a mere reciprocation of sentiments well known: but believe us when we say that good news from a far, imparts to us a a new impulse. It draws still closer the silver cord that binds us together. With respect to ministerial qualifications our sentiments coincide with yours, The servant of Christ should be a swift & living witness, The scripture warrants us in thinking, that his life should be a collateral testimony to the tendency of his message. For these things who is sufficient? Passing over the interference of all that is human with his momentous duties, How difficult to chase away the smile of sociality, ere it degenerate into the jarring discord of licensious merriment! How difficult to divest the mind of pride its ever varying shadow! If we lack studying grace, who shall supply us with quickening and dying grace? Not till the sons of Aaron, are invested with that "wisdom which is first pure then peacable, gentle easy to be entreated of without particality and without hypocrisy." and not till then will there be glory to God in the highest.

Bretheren. That the mutual faith both of us and you may be increased, that we may be of one accord, of one mind, and thoughtly furnished for every good work. is our sincere desire and united prayer.

In behalf of the Society of enquiry &c.

Theo. Seminary Glasgow Scotland

Theo. Sem. Princeton May 2d 1825

To the Students in Bethany Institution

Dear Brethren

A Society exists in our Seminary by the name of the "Society of Inquiry on Missions & the State of Religion". Its object which is specified by the name, we attempt to accomplish by familiar friendly correspondence with sister Seminaries in our own country and with Seminaries on the Eastern Continent - & with the Missionary in all parts of the world. Our meetings are held on the first day of each month during terms of study, at which time Letters to and from our several correspondents are read, & all religious intelligence in possession of any of the members is communicated in free conversation.

At a late meeting of our Society, it was resolved to propose a correspondence with your institution. Should you determine to accept our proposal you will perhaps think it advisable to adopt the plan which has been pursued here. & in all the Seminaries in our Country with which we are acquainted & form yourselves into a Society: Thus will our correspondence be placed upon a basis which will make it more interesting and permanent.

As our principal topics of correspondence will be the "cause of Missions" and the State of Religion" We will receive with pleasure such intelligence, and such remarks in relation to these subjects as you may be able and willing to communicate. We must not however to be confined to any unwarrantable topicks. A free interchange of sentiment on any subject which may have a bearing upon the general interests of the church, or may tend to promote a personal and lively zeal in our hearts will be in perfect consistency with our grand object. In this way we hope also to originate enlarged & enlightened plans of benevolent action and to produce a unity of design & concentration of effort in the cause of our common master.

Some communication might, also be required of us at this time by other reasons distinct from the object of our Society. As your Seminary has but just opened a name and and independant existence, I may devolve upon us to acknowledge it as a coadjutor, & the welcome your sister fraternity of which we constitute a part. By rules of our seniority and compliance with Deplomatic usage, we ought perhaps formerly to recognize your institution as a true and lawful Theological Seminary & therefore, entitled to all the privileges belonging to such character and title—

It is well something of the domestic and fraternal feelings, that we admit as an exception to our number we the establishment of every new institution and that we hasten to extend to these our infant sisters the hand of affection and the voice of welcome. We find indeed, from the printed account of your institution, that it has features somewhat peculiar and novel, but we shall not on that account doubt its legitimacy or withhold from it the pledges of our confidence & affection

There is something in your plan which is peculiarly striking and which entitles it to the best wishes of every one, at least as an experiment. There is much to admire in the boldness with which your brave the prejudices of the world & the independent yet meek resolution with which you forego the usual benefactions of the church, & cast yourselves for support upon the resources of your own sanctity industry.

Such an example will do much to convince the world that there may be sincerity of motive in seeking through such self denial the office of the Gospel ministry. Besides this, were you to witness as we do the whole host of cadaverous dyspeptics, who trace their diseases to the want of exercise, your would be cheered in your daily and wholsome task by the reflection that to it you owe that vigour of health and elasticity of spirits, which are essential to active and long continued labours in the vineyard of our Master—

In the success of your experiment many will undoubtedly look with interest. Until its result be ascertained, it

impossible to tell what effect it may have in modifying other and similar institutions in our country —

Dear Brethren — We trust you are not insensible to the condition of the heathen, & the desolations of the church around you. You are located in a most important section of our country. A section, whose moral privileges have long been sadly disproportionate to its wealth & refinement, & to its political agricultural importance. On you and other rising institutions at the South will devolve in a great degree the labour of rearing its churches and supplying its wastes — From the influence of a Southern Climate, and from experience it has been clearly proved, that a competent supply of spiritual teachers can not be obtained from existing institutions in the North. The only practicable way of supplying its moral wants will be to carry the means of education into the midst of its population; & from its own inhabitants to raise up men who shall be accustomed to the climate & shall labour at home. Wherever ~~one~~ lot is cast let us remember that we are engaged in a glorious cause which shall prevail & let us labour and pray that the moral renovation of our world may be speedily accomplished.

Yours in the bonds of Xtn affection

In behalf of the "Soc. of Inquiry &c

Daniel C. Axtell

1. Cor. Secy —

(J. W. Scriba)

Theo Sem^y Princeton May 2nd 1825

To the Soc^y of Inquiry Theo Sem^y Auburn

Dear Brethren

We were rejoiced by your letter of March 2nd to hear of the outpouring of the Spirit so extensively around you. Such intelligence would be highly interesting at any time & from any part of our Country. It is peculiarly so in the present instance as coming from a region which is destined from its fertility & its local advantages, to become the seat of a very dense & wealthy population; & still more as occurring at a time when by the completion of the grand chain of inland navigation, that district of your state, has experienced an impulse in population & improvement truly astonishing. We have peculiar cause for admiration & gratitude to God, that he has thus proportioned his blessings to the circumstances of the case. That just as the increase of commercial advantages had given rise to numberless thriving villages & was introducing among you every species of speculation & crime (attendant upon such an increase) he has provided an antidote to this accumulating wickedness in the special outpouring of his Spirit.

We trust that among the means at such a time of imparting to those incipient institutions & settlements the spirit of pure religion, your Soc^y will occupy an important rank. We rejoice Dear Brethren, that we have it in our power to record in like manner the marvellous doings of the Lord in our own neighbourhood. In the northern & western sections of this State there are at this time, as you have probably heard revivals of religion which for power & extent have rarely been equalled in the history of the Church. The age in which we live is indeed truly remarkable, & it becomes us who are to act our part in it to inquire with earnestness, if it does not bring with it peculiar responsibilities & duties. We have motives to caution & to purity of life, which are peculiar not only to our own age but to our own country. Here more than any where else will the religious character of the community be moulded by the ministers of the Gospel.

In the midst of popular institutions, where every important object whether political, literary or religious, is to be accomplished by popular influence, where men are to be led rather than coerced, how great is the responsibility resting upon their spiritual leaders. Besides this the sphere of ministerial duty is more extensive here than it has ever been. The servants of Christ are here by common consent made the guardians not only of religion but of morality. Institutions elsewhere deemed civil & supported by legal enactment, are here to be sustained by the undivided exertions of religious men. The Sabbath & the external ceremonies of worship - the cause of the Indian & the Negro - & the decencies of social & domestic life, may look to us as to almost their only advocates & defenders.
And when we see Legislators & magistrates, as we have seen them in your state lending their official influence to the violation of the Sabbath & as we have seen them in other states advocating & defending the most inhuman doctrines in relation to the Indian & the Slave, we feel that there are other motives to exertion besides the increasing strength of our cause - motives derived from a strong & increasing opposition. It is encouraging indeed to contemplate the promises of God, & to rely upon upon the assurance - that "his grace shall be sufficient for us," & that the "gates of hell shall never prevail against his Church". The doctrine of the special operations of the Spirit in advancing his own cause does not however absolve us from personal obligations, but rather increases their force. Let us therefore Dear Brethren, while we feel our reliance upon the Spirit of God, feel at the same time our obligations to exhibit that diligence & devotion which would be required, did our result depend upon our own exertions. Let us provoke each other to a degree of zeal & prudence, in some measure proportioned to our age & country & to the high responsibilities which rest upon us. We feel justified in this word of exhortation by scenes which have recently transpired in some of our cities & legislatures, & we would gladly receive it from you in return. There is indeed a bigoted & unenlightened zeal which would construe things indifferent into causes of offence - which would array itself against a fancied opposition & may thus create the very opposition to which fancy had given an unreal existence. The peculiar blessings connected with our civil & religious liberty, we ought

most cheerfully to acknowledge & most sacredly to guard. None have greater cause to value these blessings than the successors of those who were driven by religious intolerance to these western shores. And in devout thanksgiving to God & in implicit obedience to the powers that be, & consistent in our invariable respect to the civil ruler, so far at least as his official station is concerned, the servants of Christ ought to be as in all things else "ensamples to the flock." But it becomes us while we acknowledge with gratitude our peculiar privileges, to be awake also to our peculiar dangers & duties. There is a stand in the encroachments of error & the inroads of vice which duty requires us to take. In the conflict whose rapid approach is indicated, by the increase of revivals on the one hand, & of a formidable & embodied opposition on the other, a decided & consistent character must be maintained. In this conflict let the enemies of religion find nothing against us except concerning the law of our God. Let us carefully avoid an extravagant & unenlightened zeal for nonessentials. But in defence of doctrines & practices which are fundamental, let us exhibit all the moral firmness of the martyr, & in the midst of abounding profligacy, let us stand unshaken, even tho an host should encamp against us.

Yours in the bonds of the Gospel
In behalf of the Society of Inquiry &c
Daniel C. Axtell
1st Corn. Secy.

(A Copy
with this)

To Mr Nichols – Bombay Mission

Princeton Theological Seminary
Aug. 1st 1825

Revd & Beloved Bro,

Your letter dated the 21st of Augt 1824 & subscribed on behalf of the Bombay Mission, & so soon as the necessary forms of a society, only twice convened in that period would allow, we hasten to claim a new gratification of a similar sort, from a similar source. To the American Christian there is a peculiar interest, intermingled with the ordinary sensation, of sacred satisfaction, with which he contemplates the Missionary action abroad, when his eye is turned upon the space which Bombay workmen are called to occupy. It is an establishment consecrated as the earliest theatre of cisatlantic enterprize upon the broad, moral waste of Asia, endeared as the distant resting place of the Missionary wanderer, from our shores when discouragement & difficulty frowned upon the errand of Love, & Hope was almost drooping in silence, in in the grief of a powerless commission. From a point thus lifted up to the eye of sacred enthusiasm, the message of friendship – of Christian relation could not address us, under any form, with indifference. But in your communication the rich offering of knowledge, is added to the interest of relation, & the sympathy of memories sacred impression; itself full powerful to engage a seperate interest, & doubling all other enjoyment of your correspondence. We trust therefore that you will not be backward to instruct, & gratify our association, by a speedy return to our present epistle, however it may sorrily compensate your expenditure of time & information, in the exchange; remembering that through the blessing of our common God, you might settle to the Church not the least profitable result of such research, expenced, if in its operation it should tend in any manner, to enlarge the range of moral vision, or, animate the sluggish impulse of moral sensibility, a source of influence so widely diffusing & deeply affecting as the School of Theology in Princeton.

You have an almost inexhaustable fund whence to draw for the interest & information – a wide range of strange moral reality is stretched on your every side, from which you can scarcely select amiss, to ensure in their delineation

the lively attention of those whom you address. For however much has been written & published upon the motley aspect of superstition in India under all its various forms, the distant inquirer is compelled to feel a most inadequate apprehension of its actual condition after all. Our notions remain vague, indefinite, incomplete. We have a few general facts clearly ascertained, & many particular customs & ceremonies familiar to be sure; but still the picture in its connected features is left much indistinct. And moreover we are aware that many things have been represented inadequately, or entirely erroneously, from partial observations or hasty enquiries so that continually even on those points which we might have considered most perfectly understood, there is unfolded new knowledge, to correct or modify previous notions. We shall therefore always take pleasure in communications which like your last, tend to throw light on the native idolatry & customs & honors or which shall aid us to more definite apprehensions of those subordinate religions, which have crept with distorted visage into the midst of national heathenisms, & claim the active interest of the Missionary no less than the other.

Our Seminary continues to flourish as to number having reckoned on its last catalogue 105 students. Such a number it might seem would carry abroad on the church & country a most effective influence; but when we contemplate the vacancy which waits to receive us, & listen to the gathering sound of mingling cries that rush from a thousand desolations, far & near, we are constrained to feel that with all the help of all our sister institutions, of every denomination — the harvest is about to be as great & even more above the strength of the coming generation of labourers, than when those who are now hastening to the close of their work, first began the unequal task. & we are glad to take ~~encouragement~~ refuge in that word of encouragement & comfort "Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of Hosts. Oh! if that Spirit did rest upon us each one, as it has rested on some that in themselves were weak as we, how might we accomplish more than even the most sanguine zeal could imagine! How should one chase a thousand & two put 10,000 to flight! But alas it is not so with us — impotent in ourselves we have not rightly learned to grasp the strength of our Leader, as we should, & go forward in the resistless energy of grace, to triumph over principalities

& powers, & the rulers of the darkness of this world, & spiritual wickedneses in high places.

The other Seminaries ~~in~~ of Theology in our land continue to prosper. From Andover & Auburn you probibly have regular communications, as frequently as from this place. The latter of those places now numbers about 40 students, with every prospect of rapid increase. The (regular) amount of expence necessary to the student is hardly half its amount there, - a most influential recommendation to the great majority of those who turn their faces towards the ministry. Their Professors are good, & their Library augmenting, so that no doubt in a few years, their privalages & their (name) number will attain an equality with the older institutions of our country. It is also contemplated to locate another seminary of Theology over the western hills somewhere in the State of Ohio. The last General Assembly took the subject into formal consideration, & spoke to the expediency of the measure as recommended, & urged from so respectable a quarter of our Church, & appointed a committee to look out & select the most eligable place, for the establishment of the new school, situated so favourably it cannot fail to spring, provided an able & wise management be ensured to watch over its early progress. — While upon this subject of Theological institutions, we cannot forbear to advert to a somewhat novel establishment not long since set on foot in Virginia. It is there contemplated to unite useful labour of body with the culture of the mind, The students from the commencement of their career to its termination, are to devote a definite portion of their time to daily to agricultural occupations, blending the cares & habits of actual life with the abstraction & refinement of ~~actual labour~~ intellectual character. The scheme is now gone into operation with a small number of students, & the good wishes of all who breathe the spirit of the gospel, it will soon we trust ripen into lovely & powerful maturity, with rich & long endurance of blessing to the Church of Christ. Its advantages are sure exercise — hardy habits — great economy. The best recommendations in the words for a school of Theological Students, The labour of the students there will take away the otherwise necessary expence, of the most moderate institutions, 25 dollars they say, will clear the annual total expence of such student, Happy would it be for the Church, & for the country if the same scheme of Education could storm its way through

through prejudice & pride into every College. Academy & Seminary in the land. Then might we hope to find health & strength, & cheerfulness, as much at home in the midst of the students chamber, as around the Kitchen fireside, of humble industry. Then should the path of science be no longer stagnant as the path of lingering disease. The wasting from the pallid countenance the languid system, the nerves deranged, that so often haunt the shades of the academy & despignate its scattered song along their after pilgrimage to the grave, can never find effectual prevention but in the kindly operation of a system, like that whose infant actings are unfolding at Bethany in County Va.

We are aware that when the broad waste of the Ocean is spread between the Missionary & his native land, & years have borne him far along from his first desperation, every circumstance of civil or religious alteration, that characterises the distant country, becomes powerful to awake peculiar interest in his bosom; & gladly would we contribute all in our power to supply such gratification, But we have to regret a most inadiquate acquaintance with our country broadly ~~the~~ scattered, scattered moral features, landscapes; and it is only here & there that we can grasp some more prominent peculiarity, of particular change wherewith to win a partial interest, conscious at the same time that interest must be accompanied with disappointment, in that absence of more vigorous sectoby & more intelegent representation. We shall therefore throw together whatever information we can imagine to be acceptable, under the two general heads civil & religious intelligence without any pretentions to method, or any idea of adequate exhibition; relying rather on the patriotic & moral sympathies of our readers than to stir up some interest than upon any character of our communication.

Genl. La. Fayette, who has been a great centre of national feeling, for a whole year past, is preparing to leave our shores on the 15th of this month, You have no doubt again & again heard of this great mans visit to the land of his earliest scioalrous exploit & of the wonderful reception, by which that visit has been rendered conspicuous to the end of time upon the page of our infant history. We will not therefore descend to any minute notice of the manner in which cities towns & villages, men, woman & children, one effects suffice it to say that from the one end of our broad

toritory to the other Eastward & westward of the Allegany hilly, that man of France has rode one long triumphant circuit, compared with which the proudest procession of the Roman warior, & the lordliest pomp of the monarchantic royalty are stript of their glory. "Before him the mean man bowed down & the great man humbled himself. Rulers & subjects, nobility & rable struggled with emulation to do obsequious homage, to the illustrious stranger. God looked down from heaven & beheld the adoration of a nation, whom his outstretched arm had rescued from the house of bondage, now idolitrously lavished upon an insignificant creature of dust: It was not indeed an image of gold or of silver or of wood incapable of motion or of speech, before which the multitude flung their offerings, and shouted tumultuous praise. Nor was it a pamfooted beast a creeping thing grossly deified amid the impious dance of Folly & rites obscene of Superstition — still it was a "corruptible thing" a man of like pasions, infirmities, ignorance, emptiness, & sin with ourselves; and we know him that saith "I am Jehovah, that is my name, & my glory will I not give to another." — — — To the American christian every thing affecting the condition of the american Indian must be matter of peculiar interest. That interest has of late been called into more than ordinary exercise by the disagreable circumstances in which the Creek nation in Georgia have become involved. You know their local situation & their general civil & moral condition. You know that while the settlement of the white man has gradually approached & encircled their native tracts in all the gathering strength of civilization, unlike the general Indian manner they have constantly refused to retire from its presence, choosing rather to endure the inconveniences of such neighbourhood, rather than to forsake the ground where their warrior forefathers slept. They have seen their bordering buffalo wasting into oblivion, or urged toward the farthest bank of the Mississippi, tribe after tribe: They have witnessed the mighty hunting grounds of their forefathers diminishing before the civilized axe; while the wild deer bounded in terror far to the West: — Yet they were resolved to dwell and die

in the soil of their birth. They stipulated with the government of the U. S. some years ago to part with one half of their original territory, on condition the remainder should be guaranteed to them inviolable, until by their own consent they were willing to yield up its claim. Gradually the causes of civilization which have ever pioneered its march towards the wigwam of the Indian began to give place to its solid blessings. Perceptibly compelled ~~in some measure~~ to abandon, in some measure, the chace for the pastoral care & the tender toil of the husbandman. Soon the wiser part began to perceive wherein consisted entirely the superiority of the white man over the red wanderer of the forest, & turned all their influence to encourage this favourable influence of the times. The revolution of manners began slowly but surely to work. The Creek & the Cherokee by continual degrees began to appear more & more the attitudes of civilized life. The flock & the herd were seen grazing upon their pastures; the commodious dwelling broke ~~of~~ the forest here & there in room of the hunter's smoky cabin; and with the relations of infant civil connection came of necessity the simple principles of political economy, and the fair promise of mental & moral elevation. Already the red streak of morning dawned upon the gloom of ages & the last wild war whoop of the savage grew faint and more faint in its cadence, till it died on the echoing hills of the West. But as the white population came near & around, a political difficulty arose. How was the isolated and peculiar ~~institution~~ education of an Indian tribe to subsist in the very body of the General Government. It could not be amalgamated it could not constitutionally continue separate. The Government of Georgia had of course additional motive to urge the removal of the tribes ~~their~~ their boundary. Within the last year accordingly the measure has been urged again & again. The Gov. of the U. S. sensible of the importance of the object has made proposal that all the remnant tribes in our country emigrate beyond the western boundary of the organized states, and become consolidated in two great national compacts in the territories of Arkansas & Missouri; stipulating to purchase their present lands at fair

price, and to furnish this new establishment with civil and moral priviledges; and guaranteed security from future encroachments; yet was it clearly declared that only persuasion should be employed to engage the consent of the Indian to the contemplated plan.
The Creek nation have decidedly told their purpose never to abandon the house of their ancestors, upon any condition. Georgia was exerted herself to procure from their chiefs a formal treaty of sale & resignation. At length thro' the instrumentality of Mac Intosh a powerful chief, the object was ostensibly attained. A treaty came forth purporting to be the voice of a national council regularly convened and resigning the territory of the Creeks to the Gov: of Georgia. It was however but the shadow of a treaty got up in an assembly where only two or three chiefs were present, and in direct opposition to the known will of all the rest, and in defiance of a previous law, that if any man should propose to alienate more of their lands, he should die. Not long after the half-white-blooded treacherous chieftain Mac Intosh was summarily executed in his house by his indignant countrymen! These transactions, of course, have given rise to considerable interest thro the country. Abroad the proceedings of Georgia are reprobated; while her government continues to lay claim to the Indian territory and undertakes to appropriate it, to the emolument of the State. To every interference of the Gen: Gov her Governor & Legislature have proudly refused to submit: blustering & threatning with the most ridiculous rhodomontade, & the most intemperate presumption. Among the people, however, we believe a more rational & becoming spirit prevails. ——

Our wide-spreading country continues to advance in prosperity and improvement, to the eye of man blessed with ~~every~~ the smile of Heaven, and in civil & moral priviledge foremost among the kingdoms of the world: Every year unfolds new schemes of national aggrandizement, new plans to promote activity, wealth, power. The spirit of internal improvement seems to be making into it's utmost energy & prying with eagle glance into every corner of the land, to grasp upon it's occasion of action

The success of one State has had power to arouse the indifference of others into emulation & self-defence. The policy of Clinton taught N. York the full advantage of her inward resource; and alarmed while it astonished the indolence of neighboring States by the magnitude of its result. The Great Western Canal extending from Albany to Buffalo is already almost completed, & promises to surpass in advantage the most sanguine expectation of its friends. Uniting with the Northern Canal at or near Waterford, it pours an uninterrupted tribute of various production into the Great City thro the whole summer season. The northern range of the State, along the track of this artificial river becomes of course more & more valuable, growing rapidly in population, cultivation & wealth — Ohio struck with the example of N. Y. is now finally resolved to execute her long contemplated project too — a canal from the waters of Lake Erie to the Ohio river. On the 4th of July last the first spade-full of earth was lifted from the proposed excavation by his excellency De Witt Clinton, invited many miles to perform that important ceremony: and now the work is vigorously pursuing. Should you see them will soon be opened an uninterrupted water path, thro our country quite round the whole pile of the Alleghany hills. We might go on to speak of improvements up on various in other States, but on this particular theme we have said enough. — — —

New colleges are springing up to the South and West. We have only room to notice two, more important in themselves and more peculiarly, tho, on very different accounts, interesting to the Church. A college is preparing to go into operation at Danville Kentucky under the particular approbation of our General Assembly. It is to stand as a bulwark of truth against the heresy & infidility of Transylvania University which has fallen under Socinian influence and like Harvard of the North, disseminates contagion and death as wide as it can. The other institution to which we alluded is the "University of Virginia" located in Charlottesville, in the county of Albemarle, and founded and fostered under the peculiar patronage of our illustrious and good ex president Thomas Jefferson. It went into operation last February and commenced already about 80 students.

. Its buildings have been exceeding ly expensive, executed in a style of architecture superiour, it is said, to any thing elsewhere exhibited in the U. States. They are made to accomodate 8 profes-sors and 216 students, though constructed more with a view to external elegance, than to interiour comfort. Five of their pro-fessors have been brought over from England to give more importance to the institution. The students are not restricted to any regular course of studies. Each professor conducts his particular department in a manner independent of the rest and each learner attends whom he pleases & where he pleases. There is no constant president, but the professors preside in rotation, one year respectively. The gov-ernment is not uniform - rigid in some particulars and in many others more important, without energy. Six of the students are appointed Censors of the public conduct, a sort of democratical offset to the else Aristo-cratical feature of the system. As to religion, Jefferson's pol-icy would deem it immaterial of course, whether the stu-dents "believed in one God or twenty Gods;" it would, "with-er pick his pocket nor break his leg." The thing is left ac-cordingly very much to shift for itself - no priest, no chap-el, no morning, or evening prayer! They have only in-vited any denomination that chooses, to erect a theologic-al Seminary close in their vicinity, and say in such case it will be considered proper, for the students of the college to meet in the devotions of such institution, as con-science shall dictate.

In the course of the past year God has smiled much upon differ-ent portions of our Church. Revivals have been frequent in the N. England states, encroaching in places even upon the dark dominion of Unitarianism. In different parts of New York too, especially along its northern congregations the Spirit of the Lord has been mighty to pull down and build up. In New-Jersey the past year has been rendered peculiarly re-markable on the annals of the Church, by the unwonted effusions of Divine grace. In the Northern Section of the state more particularly during the Winter, the work of conversion has been powerful. Newark, with several neighbouring congregations has participated largely of the benignant influence. Its operation has been strong & deep, compelling even the scoffing infidel to pause and inquire "What can all this mean? In some places an extraordinary seri-ousness has extended itself over a whole community, at once

so as by its sudden and universal impression to baffle all explication on merely common principles. The pastor in his visits to the most remote corners of his charge, and where he least expected, found that the spirit of solemnity & anxious feeling had come thither before him, & waited to give authority to all his message. Every rank, age & condition, more or less fell under the heavenly influence. From the hoary headed crown of unrigheousness down to the gentlest years of childhood; from the elevation of ~~during~~ wealth and influence unsanctified, down to the lowliest dwelling of the ungodly poor; and from the daring prominence of the most shameless impiety down to the darkling depths of sin, half mantled by a false exterior, the word of God became quick and powerful to kill & to make alive. We might extend our letter to many pages, if we undertook to be more particular upon the several revivals, with which, the differant districts of the Church have been favoured; but as we presume that some one of our religious journals is as regularly as possible transmitted to your station, we deem it unnecessary and undesireable. The same reason renders it unnecessary for us to say any-thing in relation to the several Missions stations among our Indians- the same source whence we derive our information viz the Press, will send it to you sooner and more satisfactorily than we could by transcription.

You will in the same manner be told the measure of exertion that is made in our land, in the great duty of extending the truth, by all the various engines of Bible, Tract, Education, Missionary and other societies- The Anniversary Meetings of the parent Societies in New York last May were more than usually interesting- You will observe that a new national institution is got up, to be denominated the National Tract Soc. to which the former great tract societies of Boston & New York are to be henceforth considered auxiliary and in which all denominations of true christians are to cooperate. The officers & especially the publishing committee are to be taken equally out of all the united sects, and no tract shall be edited to which ~~the former~~ may object, so that all character is tic peculiarities of each denomination shall not come into view; and it is thought that in publications so entirely of a practical cast, no difficulty can occur in such arrangement.- The Colonization society increases in interest & promise of mighty moral influence both upon the United St

=ates and upon the gloomy desolations of Africa. We trust it will
move a wide door to carry off its greatest danger from our shores, and
at the same time to admit light and peace into the long, dark, ter=
=ritory of Ham. The Republic of Hayti continues also to afford an
asylum of peculiar privilege to such of our colour and population
as choose to embrace the kind offer of its government. That Island
has lately received an acknowlegement of independence from her
ancient Mistress, of Europe. She pays France, it is said, about
$ 30, 000 000, and France relinquishes all claim of original au=
=thority forever. This circumstance will probally give as an in=
=ducement to many of our blacks to emigrate, who before trem=
=bled at the idea of a French invasion. We hear now of instan=
=ces in which slave-holders to the South have generally liberated
their whole number of slaves and aided to have them sent away=
a pleasing evidence that want of opportunity and civil duty does
in many cases influence the Master of slaves to hold them in
servitude, even while he in his heart abhors the necessity and
longs for its removal. We hope as the room for freedom becomes
more and more enlarged, the prejudices of the North will be
convicted more and more of precipitate undiscriminating an=
=athema, while the plea of the South shall receive many hundred
such testimonies in its truth. — On the article of benevolent as=
=sociations, it would be deemed illiberal among the liberal chur=
=ches of the East, were we to pass in silence the "American Unitarian
association" formed last May in Boston. Its object it declares, is
to "diffuse the knowlege and promote the interests of pure Christianity
throughout our country." Got up in a sort of self-defence, we
presume, to counteract the several coalitions of Bigotry, that threa=
=ten to diffuse their superstitious spirit into every corners of the
land. The more immediate purposes of the Association are
stated in part as follows. "1st To collect and diffuse information
respecting the state of the Unitarian Christianity in our country.
2, To produce union, sympathy and cooperation among liber=
=al Christians. 3 To publish and distribute books and tracts in=
=culcating correct views of religion, in such form and at such
price as shall afford all an opportunity of becoming acquain=
=ted with Christian truth. 4 To employ Missionaries, especially
in such parts of our country as are destitute of a stated min=
=istry!" Satan would borrow of the Church her own weapons to
oppose her victorious march —

We conclude our long letter. The God of Missions smile upon the
missionary colony of Bombay, bless all its schools. direct all its coun=
=cils. prosper all its exertions, and comfort all its beloved members,

with the consolations of his everlasting grace, through our Lord Jesus Christ. The God of all truth, send out this light and truth over the benighted nations of the world, compell the wrath of man to praise him, and gather every nation, Kindred, & tongue to himself; and to His holy Name be all honour & all glory now and evermore — Amen

Most affectionately yours, in the fellowship of Christ

Written for the "Society of Enquiry on Missions" by the Fourth Corresponding Secretary

John W. Nevin —

N.B. Read before Society Aug 1st 1825 and approved with the following strictures. 1st The treaty with the Creeks was transacted by commis-=ioners of the U. States, not exclusively by Georgia. 2by The senten-=ces erased, relating to the character of T. Jefferson, are deemed indignified and unnecessary, the shame of them therefore must belong the secretary solely. 3by It would have been more satisfactory if the letter had been couched in manner and lan-=guage of greater simplicity —

Copyists
John C. Young
Henry D. Morris —

To the Society of Inquiry in the Theo. Sem. at Alexandria

Dear Brethren

The vacation of six weeks in our seminary which has lately closed has prevented our earlier answer to your last communication. We were pleased with the very friendly & christian spirit which your letter exhibited & we cheerfully reciprocate your kind professions of confidence & regard

We cannot but congratulate you & Brethren in the increase of catholic & fraternal feeling which more & more pervades the several members of that body of which Christ is the head. There may indeed be minor & unessential disputes within the limits of individual denominations & these may for aught we know continue with as much asperity as formerly. But surely in the attitude which these denominations in their united & public capacity are assuming towards each other: & in all their official intercourse where they meet on common ground, there is an enlarged & liberal catholicism which has rarely been witnessed in the history. It speaks well for the state of christian charity & religious toleration in our own country, that at this early stage of our existence there should be three grand national societies combining the efforts of all acknowledged christian denominations & cooperating in their several spheres in the cause of our common master. And if this spirit of union has already produced symptoms of alarm amongst the hosts of the enemy & called forth the note of remonstrance from their official organ it is only the evidence of its effect & the harbinger of its ultimate success. This spirit we trust we still more prevail & its influence upon our own hearts we desire most cordially to cherish. We wish not to be misunderstood. For an indiscriminate and entire consolidation of christian sects we are not advo-

So long as there exists a diversity of sentiment, a distinction of party is inevitable. The union which could be made only at the expense of publick opinion & by a smoothing of unchanged attachments, would argue an indifference to truth & a duplicity of character unworthy the followers of Christ. But while there are tenets & forms distinctive of each denomination — to maintain and disseminate which, union is impracticable. There must be surely some common ground in the fundamental doctrines of grace, for a community of feeling and exertion. Prone as our finite capacities are to arrive at opposite conclusions in the search after truth and liable as we are to be biased by petty passions and prejudices, still it would be difficult to find, in the Bible — Sunday school — & Tract operations of the day even a pretext for conflict. "Dr Brethren we have a stronger bond of union with your seminary than that which ordinarily binds the different denominations of Christians. We hope you will not disclaim the evangelical character which public report has given you — and we wish not to suspected of dishonourable interference with the sentiments & devisions of a sister ~~institution~~ denomination if we place our intercourse with you distinctly upon this foundation & lay claim to all the congeniality of sentiment and feeling which such a title indicates The assumption of a title is indeed a mere arbitrary thing but when as in the present case it denotes a party of long standing and unequivocal character when it is applied to the party both by friends & foes as designating features & contrady to the mere p rational & moral profession — & especially when its exposition and defence are exhibited so clearly in the writings of Scott & on the pages of the Christian Observer we feel the epithet is justly applied In this its correct application we love all that it implies not only of soundness in gospel doctrine but especially of vitality in a spiritual practice If these truths of the gospel may be measured & smoothed and adulterated at the dictation of reason

if instead of all that is experimental in its influence upon the feelings, religion consists only in a heartless round of duties, then & then only may the doctrines of & the Spirit termed evangelical be banished from religion with the visionaries who have disgraced it.

We rejoice however that evangelical sentiments are on the increase not only among us but especially in Europe. By letters recently received from our correspondents in Gosport & Glasgow we are apprised that one interesting feature of the present age is that the preacher of the Gospel is followed, while the mere theologist is left with a thin audience.

Our other intelligence from Europe is equally animating. You may perhaps have heard that a missionary seminary of an interesting character & auspicious prospects has lately been established in Paris for the education of Protestant young men as missionaries to the Heathen.

In Great Britain also an unusual excitement has been felt for the moral degradation of Ireland & the Highlands of Scotland & efforts corresponding to these excitements have been made by benevolent individuals & associations.

The most interesting item of our intelligence is that the Spirit of missions is evidently and rapidly increasing in England. So much is this the case that during the past year the London Missionary Society alone has received an addition of 47 auxiliaries. This astonishing increase is said to have been owing to the universal and powerful excitement produced by the tragic affair of Demarara. Thus is the dismysterious dispensation of Providence in the death of the martyred missionary already explained & vindicated; and the Phenas of Zion who murmured and perhaps murmured that the wrath of heaven slumbered while the servant of God was left to the rage of his enemies are called upon to admire the sovereignty of Him who can make the wrath of man to praise him.

We trust. Dr. Brethren that this intelligence will ~~cheer~~ encourage your hearts as it has done ours; and that while it excites our gratitude to the great head of the church it will animate to more zealous efforts in the cause of our master.
We rejoice in the increasing prosperity of your seminary and sincerely desire that our correspondence may may breathe that animated & fraternal spirit which will conduce to our mutual benefit. In behalf of the Society of Inquiry &c

Dan. C. Axtell
1 Cor. Sec'y

J. B. Adams.—
Copyist.

Princeton. Theo. Sem. August 1st 1825

1825

Theo. Sem. Princeton August 1st

To the Society of Enquiry in the Columbian College D.C.

Dear Brethren

It is a subject of regret to us that our correspondence has been so long interrupted Until the receit of your letter the present members of our Society were either ignorant of that such a correspondence existed or supposed that the suspension was chargeable to yourselves.

This mistake has probably arisen from som deficiency in our record. It will readily occur to you that in the frequent changes which are taking place in such an Institution & the consequent changes in the Secretaries of our Society such occurrences are almost unavoidable. We trust you will deem this statement a sufficient apology & that you will accept the assurances we now make of our continued regard & of our sincere desire to make the correspondence both interesting and punctual.

From the location of your Seminary, so near the seat of our Federal Government you have peculiar opportunities for observation & perhaps for benevolent exertion. You must have often observed and felt the effect of that novel and peculiar relation that Christianity bears to our political institutions. As the daily observers if not if not in the constant experience of all that is pleasing as well as painful in that relation you may naturally enquire what peculiar duties & responsibilities it imposes upon the christian. It is a question indeed of no common magnitude & it will become still more important as christianity extends itself & as our institutions acquire stedfastness & permanency. History however replete it may be with ecclesiastical changes & corruptions furnishes no case parallel to ours by whos landmarks & beacons we may be guided & warned. The word of God, the only revealed standard of our opinions and practices gives only the ground

direction of obedience to the powers that be & of benevolence to all men without respect of persons.

Is there no way then in which a christian may render an influence in civil affairs subservient to the cause of Christ & is he not bound as far as possible to secure that valuable influence & thus to employ it? Does the same state of things which exempts him from patronage absolve him likewise from obligation

Because our Government has studiously avoided even a recognition of christianity as a system of religion & in all its official acts has passed in silence & shrouded with denunciations the charter of our hopes, are we therefore at liberty to assume towards it the attitude of hostility or indifference?

We know indeed the difficulty of gaining access for religious truth to men in power — we know with what difficulty the slightest ecclesiastical interference is regarded & with what reading & zeal the horrors of ecclesiastical tyranny during ages of darkness are arraigned against the messenger of heaven. And now surely have greater reason to deprecate the return of these evils than the friends of religion themselves. If the union of church & state has destroyed the liberty of one it has been more injurious to the purity of the other, & so long as the language of experience is so explicit & melancholy the sincere friend of the church can never desire its return.

But there are obligations resting on us as christians from which the relations of society & Government can never absolve us. It is the part of enlightened zeal to be ware lest avoiding the excess of political interference we vibrate to the opposite extreme of monastic indifference.

May not the christian by foregoing those civil rights which are guaranteed to him in common with others & by neglecting the opportunity which a connexion with political institutions may afford of imparting to them the spirit of the gospel be wanting in fidelity to his master's cause? That active benevolence which is the most striking feature of our religion may surely direct equal efforts towards the ruler and the subject. Besides this the christian has

peculiar interests at the mercy of government which he is bound to defend not only by a regard to his own peace but by his duty to that christian community whose religious liberty it is so important to perpetuate.

If then we have a christian duty to perform in this matter a selection of means by which it may be best accomplished is of the highest importance. lest by a quixotic array against the prejudices & passions of men we may more injure than benefit the cause of our Master.

Of these means, Brethren, we believe the Periodical Press has been too much undervalued. The influence of the press in a free country it is almost impossible to estimate. Whatever controll was exerted among the republicks of antiquity by means of the popular harangues & the periodical recitations at the games has since the invention of printing been transfered to the press. If this influence in this aspect over the politics & literature of nations has been almost resistless its power as an agent in the cause of religion may well be conceived. Of this influence we have not been left without a mournful modern example. Whatever may have been the design of the infidel writers of France the effect of their productions was too clearly seen in all that was tragid & blasphemous in the French revolution. If it be true as has been said in their extenuation that they neither expected nor desired the extreme of anarchy and atheism which their writings produced, what does it prove on this point except that the agent which they employed surpassed in power even their own conceptions? They set in operation an engine whose effects they knew not & whose unanticipated explosion convulsed the nation.

May we not then, Dr Brethren, without the charge of employing unhallowed weapons in the service of God render the press by our efforts in humble reliance on the Spirit of all grace & more efficient means of advancing the cause of Christ. Can any better method be conceived of sending divine truth

home to that large class of cultivated and influential men who enter not the sanctuary of God & come not within the influence of religious conversation.

We trust, Dr Brethren, that the spirit of missions still exists among you & that your Institution will be the means of sending forth many devoted & efficient men into the vineyard of our Master — We hope you will forget the long suspension of our correspondence & under the influence of that charity which suffereth long return a speedy answer to our Epistle

Yours with affection & respect

D. C. Axtell
1st Cor. Sec. 7.

To the Missionary Secretary at Gosport Eng.

Princeton July 18 1825

Dear brethren,

After an unavoidable delay we beg leave to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23d Nov. 1824. We are rejoiced to hear that your religious & benevolent societies are increasing in usefulness. In the hands of God the Bible Society in particular has already become a mighty engine for the conversion of the world. It is in the moral world like the steam engine in the physical. It generates a power almost limitless in extent, and we hope endless in duration. It is wafting the ark of safety to almost every land, and bearing the banner of love to every province that has revolted against heaven.

The opposition which you mention is truly a subject of regret, but not of fear for the enemies of God who dare to interpose their feeble strength can only be crushed in the attempt.

The anniversary of our most important Societies were held in New York in May last. The hearts of Zions friends were there kindled with renewed ardour while listening to the reports of success in all the christian enterprises. Our Bible Society is sending out in merchant-ships Spanish Bibles to the ports of South America. Our Colonization Society for the coast of Africa is becoming almost a national institution. Collections for it are to be made in most of our churches on the 4th of July that on the birth day of our national freedom

the chains of the African may be asunder loosed.
Our Sabbath School & tract Society are chiefly united
and under the title of of American that stretch
to our remotest borders & are strengthened by State
auxiliaries. Our foreign & domestic missionary
Societies are also flourishing. I will mention
a late invention for doing good among our wealthy
merchants. They have established in New York a
fire insurance Co. whose stock shall yield only
6 per cent. and all the surplus, probably equal to 8
or 10 per cent. shall be cast into the treasury of the
Lord. These prospects gladden our hearts, while we
at the same time feel that all these may exist
& yet the great work of conversion to God, utterly
fail of being effected. We know that the Bible &
the tract Society may go forth over the earth
and enter into all its habitations that the
missionary may impress its truths upon every heart
yet men may & do, and will die in their sins.
& perish under the wrath of God. We rejoice
therefore that we can tell you that the wonderful
works of Gods spirit on the hearts of men are still
visible among us on the western & central parts
of the State of New York & in the Northern part
of New Jersey. And the city & college of New Haven
the sanctifying spirit has lately been shed in all
its richness & fullness. It is however with
painful regret that we discover & feel among
ourselves no more of that holy self denial, that
spirit of the missionaries & martyrs & that
entire devotion to our masters service which
ought to be living within us. But we hope
for better things. That while we are increasing

in numbers, and advancing intellectual improvement we may also be growing in personal holiness, and that we may enter into the work of our master, wearing the gospel panoply, & at last inherit the Christian's crown of glory. Tho. as individuals we are strangers to you, & probably shall never meet but in the world of Spirits — and tho. the wide waters are between us, we still hope for a permanent place in your affections, & in your intercessions before the throne of our common Father.

Desiring that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ may be with you all we remain your brethren in Christ

G. Barrett Sec.

Hiram P. Goodrich
Cor. Sec'y

To Professor A. Tholuck
of the University
Berlin

Dear Sir, July 10. 1825 Prussia

Having learned that there are now at the University of Berlin, a number of pious Evangelical young men, who are preparing for the Gospel Ministry under your direction. We desire through your influence to open a correspondence with them for our mutual benefit. Our Society is composed of about one hundred young men, who are members of the Presbyterian Theological Seminary at Princeton State of New Jersey. The design of our Society is to gather information on Missionary subjects, to learn the moral & religious state of the world, and to promote among ourselves a Missionary spirit, & a willingness to go forth as Missionaries in the service of our heavenly Master, even to the ends of the earth, & to stand undaunted in the forefront of the battle of the Lord.

We have a correspondence by letter with many foreign Missionaries in Asia, Africa & the Islands & with the Theological Schools of Europe. We feel peculiarly interested in the religious state of Germany; for she remember is ancient dominion, & political & religious changes. Is learned men whose writings now guide our studies and its noble defence of the truth in the Reformation.

We desire therefore to open a correspondence with such of the Evangelical young men as may accept our proposal & invite them to form a Society similar in design to ours. It would be pleasing to us to learn from the the state of piety in the University, or any other part of Germany, the state of learning among the common people, the labours of learned men in Biblical criticism & Theology, the most important theological writings of the present time. The state of controversy against Rationalism and Infidelity. The condition of the Jews. Whether there are any religious periodical papers for disseminating religious knowledge & promoting piety among the common people, and any other information which

thus may thrift be instructing or useful we shall gratefully receive.

The state of religion in our own county is generally increasing. The Catholic Church is generally increasing but solely by emigration from France & Ireland. The German Lutheran Church & the German Calvinist Churches are beginning to awake from their long sleep of spiritual death, some of the young Clergy are becoming Boanerges in preaching a crucified Saviour. In many of our Churches and in some cases over a wide region of country, the power of God in converting the souls of sinful men is seen & felt in an eminent degree. A day of glorious things seems to be dawning upon our land, when we shall hail the triumphs of the cross. It is true the enemies in this vicinity are many & strong. For under the banner of Socinianism are gathering the enemies of the religion of Christ, & every sect & every character but though the hosts may darken the field the truth will conquer, for the battle is the Lords

Hoping that our proposal may receive your fraternal & cordial approbation of our brethren in Christ we remain yours in the bonds of christian fellowship

L. Beecher
Copyist

Miram P. Goodrich
Cor. Secy

To "The Society of Inquiry on Missions, United Secession Divinity Hall", Glasgow Scotland.

Princeton Sept 4th 1825

Dear Brethren.

Your letter to us dated in October 1824 was duly received, and in perusing its contents our hearts were encouraged. We rejoice to learn from it that the gospel is beginning more extensively to diffuse its light and life and peace among the wild hills of the Highlands, and we hope in a few years there will not be a cliff or a glen, where the habitations of men are found, that shall not display its power and become vocal with the praises of our God. When we remember that the march and the triumph of the Gospel is impeded, not only by ignorance, slothfulness, superstition and prejudice, but that the whole tide of human feeling is setting directly and strongly against it, we have reason to wonder that it makes any progress; and when after all our toil and effort we behold it triumphant, we are constrained to exclaim "unto thy name O God be all the glory."

In attempting to give you an abstract of the doings history of the kingdom of the Redeemer among us, we scarcely know what to select, and for particulars we beg leave to refer you to the pages of our best religious publications as the "Missionary Herald" published at Boston, the "Boston Recorder" and the "New-York Observer". We would remark in general, that our schools of Theology are flourishing. Our own Seminary has about an hundred students. Andover 130, and Auburn 50. The General Assembly at the last meeting resolved to establish another Seminary, to be located somewhere in the valley of the Mississippi, with the design of supplying that rapidly populating country, with preachers from among themselves, who will naturally feel a local interest in the state of the people.

There are also a number of schools of Theology under the care of single presbyteries. A little nursling of the church of this sort has lately been established at Bethany

in Virginia, whose students pursue both an academical and a Theological course at the institution, and they almost support themselves by morning and evening labor on the plantation. Our colleges are flourishing, and from the pregnant influence of the Spirit of God upon them, they often become nurseries of the Church. New literary institutions are rising in our new State and rapidly gaining influence and character.

Our common schools are rising into importance, and receiving the attention and patronage of our legislatures. In the state of New York religious tracts have become the most class books. Free Mission schools are also established in some places, which are taught by a Society of ladies, each teaching a week or a month in their turn.

Our Bible, tract, Missionary and education Societies are all flourishing. The influence of Sabbath schools is already visible on every grade of our population. It is a vine that has been watered by the Spirit. Its flowers are now blooming, and we shall soon see it yielding the fruit of virtue and holiness. We could lead you, brethren, to some of our Sabbath schools and shew you groups of little children from 6 to 12 years old who have apparently given their young hearts to the Saviour, and have thus devoted the first fruits of their years to the service of the Lord. In the recollection of scenes like this and in the fulness of our hearts, we would entreat you in your visitings and by your future ministry never to neglect little children.

Our national society for colonizing our free and enslaved black population in Liberia, is rising in strength. There is an excitement on this subject in our land which we hope will never subside. There are however many appaling difficulties. The immense number of blacks in this country, which 4 or 500 are sometimes attached to a single family, almost precludes the idea of their entire removal, and their rapid increase causes us to shudder at the consequence if they remain. The curse is on our land. It is the entailment of our fathers and we must bear it till the time for its removal.

Concerning the state of religion in our country, we can only inform you that there are occasional outpourings of the spirit of God upon our churches which sometimes extend through whole presbyteries. The northern counties of N. Jersey and the western counties of N. York have been thus visited during the past

year. In these cases hundreds are often hopefully converted to Christ. But its good influence does not cease here. Christians around are aroused and encouraged and urged forward in the path of holiness.— Public preaching becomes more spiritual and powerful, and the whole church in some measure feels and displays its holy and happy influence. While we are constrained to mourn over the moral waste of our country. According to our last reports, the whole number of ministers under the General Assembly is 1080. Of licentiates and candidates 292. Of organized churches 1772 and of communicants 82.380. As you will perceive there are nearly 700 vacant churches. These are chiefly located in N. York. Pennsylvania, and the southern and western states. In the states of Missouri and Illinois there are 160.000 inhabitants chiefly descendants of Presbyterians, and only 18 churches and 7 ministers. In Louisiana and Mississippi there are 230 thousands, and only 11 ministers. There are however some Methodists and Baptists ministers, but they are without exception uneducated. We look upon these desolations with discouraged hearts, but when we remember whose the harvest is our hopes revive.

In this warfare, Brethren, which you and we have chosen it becomes us to keep the gospel armour girded about us, and be strong in the Lord. And if at any time we become weary with toil and discouragement, if the battle grows strong against us, and we faint in the ranks, let the cheering cry of "onward" from a brother, rally us again to the charge. We must soon fall in the field. But others will occupy our posts, and the glorious cause will triumph, and we, if faithful to the end, shall inherit a crown of life, and enter into our rest. And till we meet there, may grace mercy and peace be with you, from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Yours in Christian love
Hiram O. Goodrich.

Foreign Secretary for the
Society of Inquiry on Missions.

To The Rev. Thos. C. Stuart Superintendt of Monroe station, Mississippi

Princeton Dec. 1st 1825

To the Revd. Mr. Stuart

Dear Sir

By our much loved brethren Holmes & Blair, your associates in the privations and labours of the Missionary life, you have doubtless been made acquainted with the existence & object of the Society in whose behalf it is my province to address you. Persuaded that you do not regard with indifference this Society, or the Seminary with which we are connected, we have ventured to solicit the favour of your occasional correspondence, for the promotion of the important design of our association. We are aware that your time must be too much occupied to afford you leisure for the idle drudgery of a merely formal correspondence; nor can we promise by our communications or our counsels to relieve your anxieties or assist your efforts. But it is our earnest desire and our united request, that by presenting to us the condition and the claims of those among whom you minister, by informing us of your varied encouragements & trials, you would endeavour to inspire us with more of that self denial and Apostolic zeal which should animate and govern every minister of the Gospel of Christ. We are by profession consecrated to the service of that Saviour who has redeemed us unto God by his own most precious blood; and we are convinced that wherever our lot may be cast whether we be called to labour in this, or in a foreign land, if we would be instrumental in the conversion of sinners, we have need of greater missionary zeal, of a more abundant portion of the Spirit and the temper of that meek and lowly Jesus who tho' he had not where to lay his head, though he was persecuted and forsaken, yet went about doing good. Such a Spirit we know it is our duty and we trust it is our desire to cherish, and we believe it may be greatly promoted among us, by the interesting intelligence, by the counsels of friendship and the suggestions of experience, which we anti-

cipals from the correspondence that is now solicited.

With regard to the history and the present condition of the Mission Station established among the Chickasaw Indians under your superintendance, we have rec.d but little information thro' the public Journals. But our acquaintance with the wants of your station and our interest in its prosperity, derived from brother Holmes, induce a regret that the projected amalgamation of the United Foreign Missionary Society and the Board of Commissioners for foreign Missions should have interrupted the negociations for the transfer of your station from the care of the Synods of Carolina & Georgia to the more efficient patronage and superintendance of the Executive Committee of the A. B. M. S. But this measure, tho' it may perhaps be the occasion of protracting your privations and your struggles, will we trust tend to the ultimate welfare of your mission & to the general prosperity of the cause. Of the expediency and practicability of the plans recently adopted for the more frugal support and the more successful administration of the various mission schools and stations established among our western Tribes we are not competent to judge; but have learned with much pleasure that they are approved by the experience of some of the most pious and prudent missionaries, no less than by the collected wisdom of the Executive Com.e of the A. B. M. S.

You will probably be gratified to learn that our Sem.y still numbers more than 100 students — of the 1st Class 40, of the 2.d 34 and of the 3.d 32.

Assuring you of my fervent prayers in behalf of yourself and the Brethren associated with you

I am dear Sir

Yours respectfully

William C. Williams

2.d Cor. Sec.y

In behalf of the Society of Enquiry on Missions (Copy S. Bryson)

To the Rev. Faculty & students [redacted] of the Sem.y
General Episcopal, [redacted] Church New York —

Dear Brethren,

Some time has elapsed since an attempt was made to open a friendly correspondence, between our two Seminaries — a letter was prepared & dispatched by order of our Society: & as we were doubtful what address would enable a letter to reach you: to ensure the safe arrival of one intended for your body, we directed to an individual member of your Institution. We knew no inconvenience could arise from this, as it was impossible to mistake the letter for one intended for the individual to whom it was addressed. — We long waited in vain for your answer to this communication. We have at length however learned the cause of your silence; & the knowledge of the existence of this cause, has induced us to make another attempt to effect an object which we cannot but look upon as highly desirable. — There does indeed appear in our former letter some ground for the suspicion you seemed to entertain of an intention on our part to throw a ridelong aspersion on the character of one who has been a distinguished patron of your Institution: but we really believe, we have much better ground of complaint against you, for judging so harshly of us, as to think us capable of wantonly & insidiously outraging the feelings of men whom we professed to view as Brethren & to whom we were at that moment professing to stretch out the right hand of Fellowship. — Brethren, in imputing to us such pitiful designs, it was certainly hard measure you dealt out to us & such as you surely would never wish to be meted out to you in return. But we freely forgive your misconception, for we know that we are liable to mistake & misapprehensions: — in many points we all offend & have much need of forgiveness from one another & much more from that holy & jealous God whom we so imperfectly serve — we hope therefore, that you will always put the most favourable construction on any expressions which our letters may contain, as believing them to be dictated by a spirit of Friendship & affection. We on our part will, we trust, always do the same. Our object in desiring to open this correspondence is the establishment of such a friendly intercourse between us as shall, as shall tend to remove from each others needs that distant & frigid reserve, those unchristian jealousies, those unholy suspicions, with which we too often regard those who

who are stationed in a different division of the Christian host — there are indeed considerable differences existing between us: but not such as should prevent us from bidding each other "God speed" & from rejoicing in each others prospects of success. We are engaged in a common cause, we fight under one banner: "we have one Lord one faith one baptism" & we "are called in one hope of our calling": we should therefore endeavour to "keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace". The remark of one whom we all reverence as eminent disciple of Christ should ever be preserved in our minds. "in necessariis unitas, in non necessariis libertas, in omnibus charitas" — While we are far from joining in the wild schemes of those who would amalgamate into one common mass all the heterogeneous & discordant particles which compose what is called the Christian world; we still think there might be a closer intercourse & more fraternal feeling maintained between those who think they can discover in each others souls the lineaments divine of their common master: — We love the image of our Lord wherever we can see it: & where we see it we dare not refuse to acknowledge it. Your Church is one of those which we recognize as planted by the divine hand; & we pray that it may ever continue to flourish & yield fruit — "that the hill may be covered with the shadow of it & the bough thereof be like the goodly cedars". We love all those Churches who hold the great & fundamental principles doctrines of the Reformation & we rejoice in their prosperity. We are not so visionary as to expect, that the day will ever arrive, when the whole earth will be of "one speech & one tongue", on all those minor points of difference which may exist between us: — even the full blaze of millennial light will not reveal to men all those things they may wish to know: but by that light we doubt not, they will learn to read the folly of many an idle quarrel which has torn the Ch of Xt kending the heart of the meek Christian with anguish & swelling with unhallowed triumph the heart of the scoffing unbeliever. Our profession therefore of attachment to the interests of your Church is not the mere parade of fashionable liberality: — We believe its prosperity is the prosperity of a part of that Kingdom, of which we trust we also are members.

When we look into the catalogue of those names which adorn your church's annals, we see many for which we have a special veneration: & as long as our souls retain a sense of holy example, pious precept & the eloquence of deep thought & Christian feeling, so long shall we revere the name of such men as Beveridge & Leighton & Romaine:— And there is one of more recent date towards whom, we often look with an admiring eye & from the contemplation of whose character, we never turn out with deep feelings of unworthiness & self abasement— we mean the Missionary Martyn. A few years ago he as we all know, was entering on the field labours. He shrunk not to take his station, where toil & drudgery awaited him, where no prospect of honour opened upon him, & where the hot breath of the Indian winds threatened him with speedy dissolution. But he counted not his life dear, to him if he could only spread the knowledge of his Master's name among the heathen. His race was soon run:— his work was soon over— and God grant that when our course is finished we may sit where he now sits & stand where he now stands. There is not among us as much as we could wish for of that deep, fervent, Missionary spirit, which should ever characterise the soul of every man who professes to have devoted himself to God. If that early Missionary the Apostle to the Gentiles were among us, it would cost him many a tear & many a prayer & many a sorrowful forbading, to see the lukewarmness, the ambition & secular views of those who are to succeed to the care of that Church for which he suffered stripes & imprisonment & bonds— for which he laboured & watched & fasted. We feel ashamed to confess these things, but we should feel more ashamed, that these confessions are too true. God requires of us all, & we too often give him, but a part. Christ, says, "ye cannot serve too Masters" & yet we strive as we follow him to secure the possession of that honour & fame & profit which belongs only to the servants of the world.

Our Number is 114: of them we believe there is none who has expressed a determination to devote himself to the Missionary cause. Several have the subject in serious contemplation. It is to be hopeen that the wants of the heathen may be felt more deeply as they are known more fully, & that soon many swift messengers may be raised up who shall run to & fro, through the ends of the Earth, proclaiming glad tidings of great joy.

We recently received a visit from the Rev Mr Parvin, formerly a student of our Seminary, now a Missionary in Buenos Ayres, who has come over to seek for fellow-labourers for that land of natural beauty & moral deformity. His statements were interesting & we trust awakened our attention to the claims of South America, which will not die away without producing fruit. There are whole empires on our Southern Continent to be Christianized, for their Christianity now is but a name. And indeed wherever we turn our eyes (if we except a small part of Europe) we see nothing but darkness, desolation & death reigning throughout the earth. A world is to be redeemed from the thraldom of sin; & who are to accomplish its deliverance? Even when all who serve the cause of Christ are united, we are but a small & feeble band — "a handful of corn upon the tops of the mountains" — yet lest our hearts should faint & our hands grow weary, we have assurance of him in whose hands are the hearts of all people & "turneth them like the rivers whithersoever he will", that the fruit of this handful of corn shall at length "shake like Lebanon & they of the city shall flourish like the grass of the earth. Let us then, Brethren, strengthen each others hands, & encourage each others hearts, & come up together to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty." May the fear lest while we preach to others we ourselves should be castaways, excite us to that preparation of heart, which alone can qualify us for ministering with acceptance, before the altar of our God. And may the thought that millions are yearly dying in their sins quicken us to activity & zeal in the cause we have undertaken that we may work diligently while it is called to day, knowing that soon the night of death will come, when our hand shall be palsied & our ye shall grow dim & our voice shall cease to be heard in the land — when the honours & pleasures of Earth shall be no more to us & when we shall go to render an account to him who commissioned us & sent us forth. Brethren we desire an interest in your prayers. We remain yours in the bonds of Christian fellowship. In behalf of the Society of Enquiry

John C. Young. 1st Cor. Sec-

J. Butler (Copyist)

Princeton Feb. 1826

To the Members of the
Theo. Sem. of the German
Reform'd Synod
at Carlisle

Dear Brethren

The design of the present communication is to solicit a correspondence with the Members of Your Seminary in Relation to the great interests of the Redeemers Kingdom.

The proposal is in consequence of a resolution adopted at a late Meeting of a Society which Existed in our Seminary denominated the Society of Enquiry on Missions and the State of Religion.

The Object of this Association is to collect information with respect to the present State of Missions throughout the world together with the State of Religion in our own and Foreign Countries. With a View to obtain the object of our association a Correspondence has been opened with the most prominent Missionary Stations under the Care of the American and European Missionary Societies together with Sister Institutions in Foreign Countries and those located in different Sections of our own Land. On the 1st day of Each Month Our Society Convenes for the purpose of receiving the intelligence Communicated thro the Medium of our Correspondents, and uniting in prayer in behalf of the Missionary Cause. By this Means we become acquainted with the movements of providence in Relation to the prosperity of the Church and are afforded an opportunity of Estimating the Nature of the work to which we are separated and the qualifications it requires. Should You deem it Expedient to accept of our proposal it would tend to secure the object contemplated in our Epistolary Intercourse. Were the Members of Your Seminary to form a Society Similar to our own

We deem Associations of this Kind important and when conducted with Spirit they are Calculated to prove highly beneficial. They have a tendency to awake an interest in our Minds in Relation to a variety of Subjects which are by no means unimportant to Candidates for the Gospel Ministry and which are often overlooked. We all feel an Interest in the Missionary Cause and pray for its prosperity and are no doubt resolved to promote its welfare if spared to Enter on the official discharge of Ministerial duties. But what does the interest we cherish amount to is it founded on correct views of what the Missionary Cause is; our Experience Furnishes the answer. The fact that

Missionary Topicks are seldom Conversed on And when intro-
duced make so slight an impression on our hearts is an Evi-
dence that the Subject is by no means so familiar to us as it ought
to be And the Reason is obvious we are deficient in Missionary
Information. And while this is so our Interest in the Cause of
Missions must be partial. It is therefore Matter of importance
to have the Missionary Cause presented to our Minds in its En-
tent in the plans devised for its Support And the Success that
Attends them in order to know in what manner to promote its
welfare. And Societies for Enquiry have this advantage
that they Furnish us with many important items of Missionary
intelligence which otherwise would be utterly unknown to us
And at the same time have a tendency to awaken a lively
Interest in Everything wh. Re Cales to the Cause.

The principal advantage of Societies of this kind is the in-
fluence they are intended to Exert in the formation of Minis-
terial Character. It is undoubtedly desirable that all who
Expect the office of the Ministry be apt Scholars Not only quali-
-fied to Explain and enforce the doctrines and duties
of our holy Religion but to defend them when attacked
by wicked Men. Every Minister of the Gospel ought to be
able to meet the Infidel in Argument and Repel the
attacks of Philosophers falsely so called. But this
is not Enough the present state of the Church calls for Men
of deep feelings of Sympathy for perishing Souls.
Men prepared to Labor with dellegence and Energy in
promoting the Glory of God in our world. Tis pleasing
to witness what is doing in our day for the Spread of the
Gospel; Our Bible and Missionary and Tract Societies
have done much in Meliorating the Moral Condition of our
world. By Means of our Missionaries the Standard
of the cross has been Reared in three hundred distrcts of pagan
Territory And Numbers already Nearly 1 hundred thous
and followers. But Dear Brethren this Number
is small when Compared with the Multitudes who are
still in darkness

Six hundred Millions of our Race are strangers to the Animating hopes which the Gospel imparts And hundreds of them are daily Entering the world of Spirits unacquainted with its realities. There is an affecting thought to a Christian who bears in mind there is but one Name given under heaven whereby Men can be saved Even the Name Christ Jesus. And it is one which comes with force to us who have dedicated ourselves to God

It may be for ought we can tell that the great Head of the Church designs some of our Number to carry the Messages of Mercy to these wanderers, or to fill the Stations of those who are now enduring the heat and burthen of the day. If so we ought to be ready to follow when he leads Even should it be to the Ends of the Earth. And provided we are not destined to be Missionaries it will certainly be our duty to aid the Missionary Cause by giving Tone to Public Sentiment awakening the Sympathies of Christians for the Heathen Exciting them to diligence in prayer And liberality in contributing to the Treasury of the Lord Every Minister therefore ought to be imbued with a Missionary or else his influence instead of accelerating will tend to retard the Missionary Cause

To cultivate this Spirit is the grand object of this and similar Societies for Enquiry on Missions and it is with a View of securing this object that we desire a correspondence with your Institution. We recognize you as Brethren We have the same faith and the same hope have in prospect the same office And Expect to spend and be spent in the same cause. We therefore should know one another And shew that tender affection which the Saviour has so affectionately enjoined on his followers. Should you deem it Expedient to comply with our request we should be happy to learn from you any information respect the state of Religion in your district of Country. We would be glad to learn and prolong the state of feeling amongst the Christian

in the Cause to the Missionary Cause. How the Missionary Concert is attended and whether there is a growing interest in the diffusion of Religious Knowledge by means of Bibles Tracts and meetings for prayer amongst the poor

As to the state of things with us we have but little to communicate at present. Our Seminary of Students as to Number Consisting at Present of upwards of one Hundred. You have no doubt heard of the Extensive Revival of Religion Enjoyed during the past year by a Number of Churches in this State. It affords us pleasure to inform you that in Elizabeth Town a work of grace has been Encreasing for some weeks past with great Rapidity. Upwards of one Hundred are under Serious impressions and the Number is encreasing daily. In Matters of Encouragement that the Lord has been pleased to pour out his Spirit upon two of our Literary Institutions. Dear Brethren our Prayer is that the God of grace may be with you and bless you and prepare you for Extensive usefulness in his Church. On behalf of the Society of Enquiry on Missions and the State of Religion

Daniel McKinley Cor. Sec.

Theological Seminary Princeton
Jan'y 30th 1826

To the Society of Enquiry &c in the Bethany Institution
near Charleston Va.

Dear Brethren In answering your letter & expressing the continuance of our fraternal feelings & our best wishes & prayers for your prosperity both externally & spiritually we feel ourselves performing a pleasing duty & enjoying an interesting privilege. We are not only commanded to stir up one another to exhort one another daily to bear one another's burdens but it is the precious legacy left us by our ascended Master that by this mutual exhortation & mutual sympathy our faith should be enlivened our zeal

increased & all our holy resolutions strengthened. It has no doubt often occurred to you that truths with which we are perfectly familiar exert a deeper train of interest & enlist much more vigorously our feelings when viewed together with others & when presented to our consideration by those whom we love. It would be under the impression of this fact & trusting that we shall in your christian sympathies & congenial in our views of religious truths that we hope to impart any interest to the things upon which we may dwell in this communication & to which though ye know them "we would stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance" We know that the cause in which we are engaged & to which we profess cheerfully to devote ourselves is the cause of God. He crowns the success of every effort which directly or indirectly tends to promote it & on his promises rests the certainty that the means employed by his servants on earth, will conduce to the great end which the Church anticipates & his word of prophecy so clearly predicts. With the firmest conviction of this truth & the most entire confidence that it rests like the other truths of Scripture on the unchangeableness of their author we imagine, that it is only necessary to know that our efforts are in this cause & our plans in correspondence with the directions of his word to add to them energy, animation & success.

Believing that your institution is designed to further the best of causes — to furnish soldiers for the army of the King of Kings & to diffuse the light of the gospel, we continue to bid you God speed & to express our hope that our mutual prayers to the Lord of the harvest may be heard that many faithful laborers may be thrust forth — that the Head of the Church would continue to smile on the schools of the Prophets & especially upon your infant & interesting Seminary. We know no view better adapted to encourage & excite those who are preparing for active exertions & more fitted to rally the hopes that are so apt to languish than the the certainty of the ultimate success of the gospel & that it is to be accomplished by the instrumentality of men. The darker vicissitudes than have ever yet befallen the church & more troublous times & more powerful conflicts than have ever yet threatened its prosperity & peace, may be destined to mark its progress thro' ensuing years yet the word of the Lord hath spoken it that "the knowledge of the Lord shall cover the earth as the waters cover the face of the great deep." Our anxiety then Dear Brethren should be to know whether we shall share in the instrumentality that transforms a world of rebellion into a world of dutiful allegiance to the Lord Almighty & whether our country is to march on from its present situation, brightening in beauty & growing in Holiness till the day when the "head stone of the glorious temple of Salvation shall be brought forth with shoutings" while the redeemed of the Lord cry "Grace — Grace unto it". Without indulging for a moment a

doubt concerning the ultimate fulfilment of all the prophecies which speak favorable things of Zion, we are sometimes led to fear from the signs of the times, that seasons may intervene, which cause the pious heart to be sad. Some mournful pages in the History of the Church and some awful denunciations in the word of God, connected with some of the indications of the present period, are calculated to create despondency in regard to the place which our country will hold in the prosperous times of the Church in future ages. Judging from the usual dispensations of the God who is Sovereign in his dealings, may not the lukewarmness - the errors in doctrine & the abuse of privileges involve us in judgements the most distressing tho the least felt - in a sickly indifference almost worse than the death like stupor which reigns throughout the moral wilderness of Heathenism? May not the sun of Righteousness which has rolled o'er this region, after a few years roll onwards to others & leave us for our neglect to the darkness & desolation which now overshadows the churches of the first centuries? From the Indian tribes & the islands of the sea, may not children be raised up to Abraham, while we with our civilization & our privileges may share the fate pitied by future generations, as involved in the same judgements as those whom now we pity & for whose fallen greatness we now mourn!

Brethren! if you have patriotism - if you have prayers let this not be! Connecting your future missionary labors & your religious exertions with this mournful possibility, let it add energy & give direction to the future labors of your lives. Labor for the illumination of the world but labor also, that the land where the graves of your forefathers & the temples of our God - the recollections of our childhood, the endearments of our home add the ties of natural affection to those of conscience & religion, be not left to spiritual death while the light of life is illuminating & transforming other regions of our world. We would not needlessly indulge in mournful anticipations but when Satan ceases to be a roaring lion or ceases to clothe his ministers as angels of light we may cease to be on our guard. Let us be aware, for in the latter days perilous times shall come & when we fondly hoped the purest rays of the gospel would be shed, the noxiousness of error may be privily brought in & formality may take the place of religion & along with the most flattering external prosperity & political splendor, the sinfulness that sadly exalteth a nation may be gone. It is the part of prudence to be prepared for all possible difficulties & a clear knowledge of the truth & an accurate acquaintance with the sacred depository of our doctrines & promises, affords the best safeguard to our spiritual ark - the best bulwark against the inroads of error, while warm & active and evangelical piety will best transform the moral aspect of Society when

Liberal Christianity & its melancholy appendages threaten to rob us
of our country of the precious doctrines of Christ & him crucified.
Suffer then the word of exhortation let us become fully armed
with knowledge, for the pulling down of strong holds - for meeting
the enemies of our country & its religion as well as bearing the glad
tidings of Salvation - for shielding our country while we disseminate
the blessings it enjoys. For this purpose in the society established
like our own for enquiry on the subject of Religion we would
suggest the propriety of marking the progress & proceedings &
purposes of its enemies & as they industriously diffuse their
poison & as it finds a welcome in the unregenerate heart of man
the antidote may be faithfully acquired & vigorously applied by
the ministers & missionaries of Christ. For ourselves we have
reason to be humbled & alarmed - this region once so highly favoured
has long been unblessed by the visitations of God's mercy - this place
where sacred piety & learning once flourished so eminently
presents little to cheer the eye or satisfy the anticipations of
the humble child of God - the church looks almost in vain
to the venerable Institutions where so many have gone to
break the bread of life to perishing immortals, we lament
to add that in the school of the prophets the tone of piety is not
so elevated & the spirit of missions not so general as our situation
our privileges & our prospects demand. We are happy however to
inform you that in Elizabethtown in this state there is at this time
a precious season of reviving grace. There is still something
amidst our coldness & barrenness for which our thanksgiving is
due to the great Father of mercies, our prayer is that the the Lord
we extend his mercy even unto us & give us days of rejoicing,
according to the days in which we have been afflicted. Upwards
of a hundred formerly careless souls are numbered with those
who are anxiously enquiring for help & salvation in this revival.

Finally, brethren farewell. May the blessing of him who loved
to visit Bethany when on earth rest upon you & prosper you.
May the mantle of pious missionaries who have lived & labored
in the same glorious cause fall upon you. May your alternate
labor & study fit your bodies & your souls for long - active &
successful exertions in the ranks of him "whose right it is to rule."

Yours in the bonds of the Gospel

In behalf of the Society of Enquiry &c

D. H. Riddle Asst Secr

Wm Cahoon Jr Copyist

Princeton March 1826

Rev'd Sir

At a late meeting of a society which is composed of the students of the Theological Seminary of this place, under the title of "a society of Enquiry on Missions" and the state of religion, a resolution was adopted to solicit a correspondence with the students of the Theological institution under your care. The name of our society will readily suggest to your mind the design of its formation, and our motives in soliciting the present correspondence. Our object is to gather information relative to the great interests of the Redeemers kingdom particularly as to the present state of Missions throughout the world, and to secure this we correspond by letter with several of the Missionaries who are now engaged in propogating the gospel among the heathen together with the various Theological schools of our own country and the Eastern continent, in many of which societies have been formed for the same object, and are conducted on a plan similar to the one we have adopted.

We have adverted for a moment to the nature of the association which has authorized the present communication because we are persuaded that the object it contemplates is one which will recommend itself to your cordial approbation, although the names by which we are known as followers of the same adorable Leader are different, yet the character we bear, the guide we follow and the hopes we cherish are the same; if we are truly the people of God, we are all built on the same foundation Christ Jesus, and our common character is described in the words addressed by the Apostle Peter to the strangers scattered abroad from the home of their fathers a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people and our common business to shew forth the praises of him who has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light.

In the cause of Missions we are mutually interested. It is the cause of our common Lord and Redeemer Jesus and all whose hearts and lives are devoted to its [illegible] prosperity, we hail as the friends of God and the benefactors of men

With such we delight to have sweet communion; for we esteem highly, and desire to cultivate by speedy intercourse the spirit by which they are actuated. This sentiment has endeared us to such a correspondence with the United Brethren; and should our proposals be acceded to, we anticipate in your communications much that will interest our feelings, and have a tendency to animate us in the cause of doing good. In this cause as a body you have long taken a decided part, and manifested an interest in its prosperity which merits and deserves the approbation of every devoted friend to the welfare of the heathen.

Your missions have been formed in this good and good understanding, and the blessing of God has crowned their labors with success. Through their faith and patience in propagating the gospel of our Lord and Savior among the deluded votaries of idolatry, the light of the sun of righteousness has penetrated into the dark regions of the shadow of death, and many by it have been guided into the way of peace and made of that inheritance which is incorruptable, undefiled and which fadeth not away. We cherish the hope that the Lord is with you now as he has been in times gone by, to bless you in all that you do for the promotion of his glory - in strengthening your Missionaries for their work, animating them under their trials, and accompanying their labors with that might and power which renders the preaching of the cross of Christ efficacious to the salvation of souls; and as those who are interested in the same cause, and are anxious to promote its welfare, we desire you to inform us what the Lord is doing through the instrumentality of your Missionaries for bending up his kingdom and verifying his promises that the ends of the earth shall see his salvation.

Every item of intelligence which you may be pleased to communicate relative to your missionaries, and missionary operations, to the plan you have adopted for effecting extensively the knowledge of salvation, and the success that attends them and any information you may please to afford as illustrative of the qualifications

which are indispensable in the Missionary of the Cross, and any plans you may suggest as important in promoting the best interests of the cause, will be gratefully received, and through the blessing of God will prepare us for the part which the Lord may assign us in his spiritual kingdom.

The advantages which are consequent from a free communication of sentiment on subjects in which the interests is a mutual one, are manifested. The men of the world act thus in all their projects for national aggrandisement, and the success that attends their undertakings, proves that they act wisely. So should it be with those who have higher objects to awaken their energies, and other ties to animate their efforts than the short lived interests of a fleeting world. What is a nation's aggrandisement, when compared with the honour of our God in whose sight the empires of the earth are less than nothing and vanity — what are our much talked of internal improvement, when contrasted with the moral and spiritual improvement which the Missionary and all who are devoted to the Missionary cause are combined to promote among the perishing heathen. If things be so, our zeal ought to be proportioned to the cause we have espoused. We ought to be united in our efforts to promote it, in our prayers to God for its prosperity and under the impulse of faith to go forward with vigour, under the conviction that the cause is the Lord's, and will prosper thro' the gates of hell be united to crush it.

Believing as we do that a free interchange of feeling with those under your instruction would tend to our mutual instruction, we submit our proposal through God to our brethren in the Lord under the conviction your prudence will dictate what will best promote our mutual benefit.

Begging an interest in your prayers and assuring you of our affectionate concern for your success, in the prominent and responsible station which the Lord has assigned you we remain with sentiments of esteem

Yours in the Lord
On behalf of the Society of Engr. or Mess. &
the State of religion —
Samuel McKinley
Corresp. Sec.

copy J.C.

Princeton March 1st 1826

Dear Brethren.

It is with pleasure we meet with your offer of interchange of sentiment and information. and we trust the result may be a concurrence of feeling in devising plans of usefulness, and a cooperation of energy in their execution, which will crown our christian enterprises with success beyond our most sanguine expectations. much, we feel assured, may be gained from union of design and communion of feeling; and though we enjoy not the freedom of personal intercourse. much may be effected even by that mode of communication which alone we can adopt. Harmony of feeling may be promoted by perceiving that we are both labouring to effect the same object; a holy emulation may be stirred up in us by reciprocally observing the zeal and earnestness with which we are engaged in the same cause; we may magnify in each other's eyes the importance of our grand object: many valuable hints may be mutually thrown out, which we may either now collectively improve, or which may contain the germs of plans which we may hereafter individually develope; and, finally, our hearts may be cheered by beholding God's work prospering in the hands of others, by perceiving that he is working in their hearts as well as ours to will and to do of his own good pleasure; and by feeling that exulting assurance of the rapid triumphs of his cause with which we are always inspired when we see the soldiers of the cross acquitting themselves like men —

The precise object of our society which you desired to learn, is, to collect information respecting the various Domestic & Foreign Missions with a view of ascertaining our personal duty in respect to

them; and to obtain a knowledge of the state of religion in the different parts of our country. This you will perceive is the wide field in which we can but glean here and there some scattered facts which may help us to form our judgments respecting duty, and stimulate our slumbering spirits to put forth their ~~exertions~~ energies. The peculiar nature of our Institution affords us, on this subject, one great advantage. As a general summary of observation, whose channels are planted in every part of the land, we unite together men from every section of our country, and have thus ample means of ascertaining the comparative wants of the several districts of our extensive territory. A great portion of our students coming from the west and the south, bring with them, and we trust infuse into the minds of those with whom they mingle, a clear sense of the sacred devotion which reigns in their respective states, and an ardent desire to be engaged in ministering to the wants of their destitute countrymen who are perishing by thousands for lack of knowledge. Your situation is not such as to force these views upon you so frequently and so forcibly as they are brought up before us: we would therefore recommend you to turn your attention to this interesting portion of our country, for we are sure that the more you reflect on the subject of colonizing these destitute states with active, faithful, and enlightened heralds of salvation, the more deeply you will be impressed with its importance; and the more readily will you bend your personal efforts to find this

noble object. There is here a wide field for the exertion of consecrated talent; and men of talents as well as piety are needed - men who are capable of swaying a sceptre over vigorous and enterprising minds - men capable of moulding into a christian form the rude materials which compose the rising Empire of the west - men capable of impressing their own character upon the infant Hercules. ——

Foreign missions, from whatever cause or causes the fact results, seem to attract somewhat less of the attention of the students than was the case some years since. The hope that it is otherwise with you, and that you have among you some whose hearts ~~are~~ warm towards the wandering Pagan, who desire that the messenger of death may find them in the missionary field, and who pope to lay their bones where Swartz or Vanderkemp or Martyn sleep.

We are occasionally cheered by the affectionate and animating letters of some who once occupied our places, but who are now labouring in India or in the Iles of the Pacific - with these we maintain a correspondence. Some of the Missionaries among our frontier Indians were once of our number - with these also we keep up a correspondence. Another of our sources of information is the letters of those who have left us and are journeying though the country, or holding temporary situations as Missionaries. - we hold communication also with all the important seminaries in our country. This though it is highly beneficial as to the cultivation of good feeling and fraternal regard; is not so valuable as a source

of information. we trust, however, that it will be apparent in the mutual communications between you and us. And now, dear brethren, as we have thus briefly stated the object of our society, and the means by which we endeavour to obtain that object, we hope no opportunity will be omitted on either part, of throwing out any friendly hint, displaying any important plan, or pressing the claims of our christian enterprise. And may God grant that a spirit of watchfulness & zeal for the interests of his kingdom may be diffused through all our societies; may he grant that our own hearts may be warmed while we are planning to warm others; and when our Lord shall come, may he find us faithfully employed in his work, looking for his coming and ready to enter into his rest.—

John C. Young 1st Corresponding
Sec in behalf of the society for
Inquiry &c

Rev'd Calvin Holton, Missionary Liberia, Africa

1826

Theological Seminary, Princeton May 1st

Dear friend & Brother,

For a number of years past there has existed in this institution, a society whose prominent object it is - to obtain information respecting the state & prospect of Foreign & Domestic Missions & respecting the state of Religion generally. With a view of ascertaining the field of labour, it may be their duty to occupy when they shall go forth to proclaim the Saviors message. This important & interesting object, we have hitherto pursued with much advantage, & satisfaction by means of Epistolary correspondence, with most prominent Missionary stations in our own country - in India & the Islands of the Pacific & with a number of Theological schools in the U S States, in Great Britain & on the Continent. From these various sources, we have been accustomed to receive intelligence, of a kind, most important & deeply interesting to us as candidates for the Holy ministry - the benign tendency of which, is to impart an expansive benevolence towards those who are destitute of the word of life, & an anxious solicitude for the progress & establishment of our Redeemers Kingdom - to instil a tender sympathy & interest in the wondrous labours of the devoted missionary & a harmony of Christian sentiment with the friends of Zion - to give an impulse & animation to our languid desires to be labourers with those who are endeavouring to convert the moral deserts of our world into the fruitful gardens of the Lord.

With none of our Brethren in Christ, on the vast continent of Africa, have we as yet enjoyed the pleasure & benefit of friendly correspondence. Whilst other regions have presented their pitious desolations to our eye & made their pathetic appeals to our benevolent regard, we feel conscious of having been hitherto guilty of too much ignorance & apathy in reference to the moral condition & prospect of the neglected sons of Ethiopia. We rejoice however in being permitted to indulge the hope that, in the kind providence of God, the time is fast approaching for the accomplishment of the gracious promise, that this degraded population, "shall stretch forth its hands to God". We feel encouraged by recent events, to anticipate from that quarter of the Globe most grateful intelligence -

to the Place of your present settlement was especially look
as the radiant point of hope & immortality to the African race.
We are persuaded that the cause in which you have recently
embarked, is one of peculiar promise, presenting claims pe-
culiarly tender & even irresistible to the energetic aid of the
of the American Church & People, & one, that shall ere long be
crowned with the most auspicious results.

Being persuaded of the importance to ourselves & personal
communication with some attention & interested observer of
of the present condition of Africa, with one especially, who
has sacrificed the truest Sanities of home to promote its ame-
lioration - being persuaded also that you will have access to
the best sources of information, we have ventured on the ground
our mutual interest in the Redeemers Kingdom, to solicit the
favour of your correspondence. We cannot however for
ourselves, promise reciprocal pleasure & advantage from
the intelligence we may communicate to you from time to
time in return; but we hope that the consideration of inspi
ring us with renewed ardour in the cause of Christian im-prove
ment & thus fitting us more extensively to glorify our
common master will be with you a sufficient induce
ment to compe in this way an obligation that we may
not be fully able to discharge.

The formation of the American Colonization Society - its
liberal & philanthropic views, the prospective advantages civil &
religious that it offers to a people whom we cannot but deeply
commiserate & whose habitation in the midst of us in their pre
state we must regard as a threatening calamity - the auspicious
rays of light & comfort this society has already darted across the
atlantic to the kindred population of Africa & the benign pro-
jects in reference to them which it is gradually disclosing to our
view - are all calculated to move the sympathies & secure the
helping hand of every friend of Zions prosperity & of every ge-
nuine American who values the welfare & honour of his country.
There is abundant reason for lively gratitude to God & for
our mutual congratulation, in the fact, that this society
has advanced so rapidly in public estimation - that its en-
lightened plans & operations are becoming so extensively known
appreciated & approved - that its auxiliaries are increasing in
number, zeal & efficiency, that several of our state legislatures
have expressed a favorable judgement & appropriated monies
to the advancement of its object - that various Christian

denominations & the clergy of our country are lending their efforts in its support - & that the opposition made to it in different quarters, daily contributes more to its advantage than injury - It is our sincere desire & prayer, that the public mind may be so enlightened on the subject of Domestic Slavery, through the medium of this society, that our representative in Congress may soon be instructed to devise & promptly execute measures for its salutary abolition: so that our national character may not exhibit this opprobrious stain & our national prosperity no longer be threatened with this direful & increasing evil. Comparatively little will be achieved towards the safe emancipation of our slaves, until a national effort be made: when this shall occur & we think that ere long the public voice will demand it, the eye will no longer discern a single slave under the benignant branches of the tree American liberty: the millions that are now in a state of miserable bondage amongst us, shall be trans planted to the fertile plains of Africa & endowed with the invaluable blessings of Religion & civilization, under the genial influence of free institutions & the word of life, we shall trace with delight the intellectual, moral & political improvement - we shall with rejoice this benignant & powerful agency in dispelling the thick darkness & mitigating the civil & spiritual wretchedness of the sons & daughter of Africa - we shall rejoice in the animating prospect of that vast continent, being wrested from the power of Darkness & attached to the dominions of our Lord & master.

Before these scenes shall be realized however, many serious obstacle must be removed, many conflicting interest are to be conciliated, much patience, wisdom, zeal & perseverance must be exercised, But our trust is in the God of nations, who is a God of grace & will regulate events in such a wise though mysterious way as to advance the prosperity of his church.

Were it in our power we should be glad to communicate some interesting facts relative to the business of Colonization, that have not already been inserted in our public journals & these we presume to be regularly transmitted to your station - as they contain the substance of our own information on the subject, it will be unnecessary to repeat their narrations - We are able to state however, that a society has recently been formed & incorporated in Newark, of this state, the object of which is, to instruct African youth in the principles of the Gospel, in the common branches of education & in the more useful & important of the arts

with the view of sending them to Liberia. To further this project, they expect an good grounds, to have the use of a fund of 20.000 dollars, that was bequeathed a number of years ago by Kosciusco, the famous Patriot of Poland & was directed to be applied to the redemption & instruction of slaves in the U. S. This fund has since been unemployed, for this purpose but as it is soon to be committed, as we understand, to this society it will enable them to act with some efficiency this anniversary soon take place, when the particulars may be expected to come fully before the Public.

The organization of a Christian church out of the little body of emigrants, you accompanied to Liberia, was a circumstance truly gratifying & one, we think, which promises many advantages to the cause, a particular account of the character it maintains, of the accessions that may possibly be made to it & of the moral influence it may exert upon the colony & neighbourhood together with an account of the distinguished displays of divine grace towards all those entrusted to your pastoral care & in within the sphere of your observation, we should receive with heartfelt gratitude & pleasure. Permit us also to request some information as to the facility of prosecuting missionary efforts with probable success, among the barbarous tribes in your vicinity & likewise some notice of the peculiarity of their religious beliefs & practices, customs &c & such other articles of intelligence, as you may have opportunity & inclination to communicate. We fear however, that we are soliciting a favour, the bestowment of which, your important avocations may render inconvenient, but we trust you will be induced to gratify us, by the prospect of thus producing in us, a firmer attachment to the noble cause you have espoused & a proportional activity in its promotion. We desire to attain a nearer, more definite & impressive view of the promising field upon which you are operating, than is afforded through the medium of Public journals & we have no mode of accomplishing this, but by epistolary communication with those whose views are extended & sympathies awakened by personal labours & observation.

With regard to our Seminary we have nothing of particular moment to relate. The number of its students at present rather exceed a hundred, of these none we believe has yet fully declared his intention to embark in the service of foreign missions.

so importunate & persuasive is the cry for ministerial labour within the limits of our own country, so rapidly is our population multiplying & so disproportioned is the supply of the means of grace, so powerful are the claims of our own country - whose stability & welfare depends on the sanctifying influence of the gospel faithfully proclaimed, so widely spread & uncultivated are the fields in immediate prospect before us & on every hand, that we feel constrained to confine our feeble energies to the cause of Domestic improvement. whilst our anxious & prayerful regard cannot fail to be excited by the necessitous & perishing state of our race in other parts of the world, alas! when shall labourers be found to cultivate the Lords extended vineyard: when shall the populous heathen be given according to promise to the Saviour for his inheritance - when shall the hideous darkness be dispelled in which they are now enveloped - darkness, which yields to no power, but that of the Sun of Righteousness.

To the great head of the church, we owe unutterable gratitude for the signal displays of his power & grace, that have been witnessed & enjoyed during the present year in various sections of our country & in several of our Colleges. The gospel has in many places, illustriously manifested itself to be none other than the power of God & the wisdom of God - mighty to the pulling down of strong holds & to the renovation of men. We deem it unnecessary to adduce facts in illustration of this topic - as they are stated so fully in all our religious papers & far more satisfactorily than we could at present ~~delineate~~ exhibit them.

And now dear Brother we would close our meagre communication, by expressingly infeignedly our deep interest in your welfare & in the success of your exertions; & by fervently imploring on your behalf the rich consolations of the Gospel & the aids of the Holy Spirit - we pray also that the degraded African whether in this country or in his native continent, may enjoy the benignant smiles of Providence in their speedy emancipation from the complicated wiles & an unrighteous servitude & cheerless barbarism - in their elevation to all the benefits which science, the arts & christianity can impart - & in this prayer we have no doubt your hearty concurrence. We shall be glad soon to hear from you accept the assurance of our Christian fellowship & love.

In behalf of the Society of Inquiry on Missions & the state of Religion James R Boyd
4th Corres. Secy

Copied by Wm B McIlvain
For John F Cowan

To the Circle of Enquiry, Auburn N.Y. April 24th 1826

Dear Brethren,

In answering your letter of Dec last & reviewing the intelligence it contained, of the success of the Saviour's cause in your vicinity & the warm feelings of sympathy & affection for us. we are feelingly alive to the benefits resulting from our correspondence. amid the despondency into which we are too prone to fall & the apathy which insensibly steals over us, even when preparing for arduous labor, in the field of battle, it is pleasant to be aroused by the shouts of victory from other regions & to be urged to activity, by those whose faces we have never seen in the flesh. our cause is the same — our preparation is the same & our future reward will be shared together in our Father's house. We go forth to meet the same foes — animated by the same Leader's voice, wielding the same weapons, & therefore, brethren, we rejoice that we are permitted to join our thanks with you to the great Head of the Church, for the triumphs, which his arms have gained & to unite our Prayers, that he would go on conquering & to conquer, till all nations & kindreds & tongues, be gathered to his banner & rejoice in his Salvation.

In our immediate vicinity we are sorry to say, there is little to animate & encourage us; We sometimes are cheered with the reports of those who have left us & are scattered over our country in different quarters & oftentimes the cry comes, from the desolate regions which they dwell or where they are settled "Come & Help us." They present pictures of spiritual famine, sufficient to excite us to diligence & induce us to leave the sweets of social relation & the endearments of home, to break the bread of life to those who are perishing for lack of Vision. our population widening to the West & South, seem likely to extend beyond the influence of the Bible & the adventurous Spirit of emigration, to go beyond the means of preparation for another remove to the land of Spirits. To send the blessings of the gospel & the influence of religious truths, to this interesting portion of our community, seems a different, this it is certainly an important duty & those who have gone from our walls to throw themselves into the tide, as it rolls back & will exert a salutary ~~influence~~ this limited influence. We hope there are many amongst us, who will give their exertions in the same sphere of duty — on whom the cries for help will not be made in vain & who are now preparing in a peculiar manner, for the trials & difficulties, incident to such a scene of labor. Brethren, pray with us, that they may be strengthened & fully armed.

To the general languor in our state on the interests of religion, there is a glorious exception in the churches of Elizabeth town & vicinity. The Spirit of the Lord, in very deed seems to be amongst them in his convincing & converting influences. Those brethren, who from our seminary have visited them, speak in glowing language, of the wondrous things which God hath wrought — in subduing the proudest hearts — in melting the most stubborn — in communicating unspeakable comforts, to the young disciples who have passed from darkness into light & especially in changing the hearts of very young children. This latter circumstance is most encouraging to the pious heart. Early piety is lovely — but to see young buds scarcely opened to receive the tints of a

world of sin, transplanted into the garden of the Lord, affords the purest happiness to the real follower of Jesus, that earthly incidents can inspire & presents anticipations of future good to the church, which it is animating to indulge. Oh! brethren! while the fathers, will go to the land of darkness, with their sins, ripened into habits & early follies ripened into damning crimes, let us save the children. In this revival, some children of nine years old, are said to give satisfactory evidences of genuine piety. Tho' we have to mourn that we ourselves are declining & insensible in a great measure to the awful importance of our situations & prospects, yet we hope these news have influenced us in some good degree - that we can rejoice in these tokens for good & pray more faithfully & fervently, that God would cause his face to shine upon us & send us out into his service, warmed with love & burning with zeal for the Lord God of Hosts. In these things, especially, we feel ourselves deficient & in these things, we would ask your prayers - that we may feel more strongly the situation of the world, its darkness & its danger & be more willing to spend & be spent, for the dissemination of the light of the gospel to perishing & immortal millions. We fear the spirit of missionary exertion, which once existed in this seminary has declined lately rather than advanced. Less interest if we may judge ourselves, in the Heathen & fewer, who are going to them tho' bonds & imprisonment & death await them. We need the spirit of Brainerd & Marlyn & Mills. While unbelief stretches a curtain over the future world & hides from our sight the fearful misery of the present, we are not sensible of the melancholy fact, that thousands are yearly descending to the land of changeless horror. - we need to be roused from our slumbers - and kept awake continually by constant thunders or woon to activity, by instances of manifest interposition of Heaven. Alas! while every thing that is awful in Eternity, is equally awful every moment of our existence, our feelings in relation to these awful interests, are variable as the wind affected propitiously or unpropitiously by every incident - liable to be wound up to the highest pitch or depressed to the lowest by circumstances over which we have no control & in producing which we have no efficiency. In connexion with this subject we gladly advert to an incident of no ordinary kind, which we believe has had a powerful influence upon the feelings & will have upon the views of the Brethren of this Seminary. We allude to the death of Mr Guy Chew, a young Indian, who died in this place during the last week. We have had before our eyes a living & dying evidence of the efficacy & utility of missionary exertions - of the transforming efficacy of Divine grace & the preciousness of Divine consolation, in giving patience - resignation - meekness, faith & triumph to the dying bed of one who four years ago was in the wilderness, in wretchedness & Heathenism. We have seen the smile of celestial joy & the glory of anticipated Heaven, on the pale countenance of one who four years ago, knew not why the God of the White man was better than the God of the Indian. The history of twenty two years, the age of this interesting youth is brief - 18 years he was a wanderer and a Heathen - he visited the dwelling of the White man & wondered - the God of Providence led him to learn the secret of civilization & the wonders of Redemption - he became a student at Cornwall & a disciple of Jesus, after three years he went to Canada to finish his preparation for labor among his brethren of the Forest - and - the hand of Disease arrested him - after his return to Newyork, he lingered under its influence - and he came here - to die. We humbly believe this circumstance was Providential. He that pitiesh the nations

for wise purposes, determined that after the taper of life had nearly faded it should at last go out here. He came from far — to die among us — to wake in us feelings which nothing else could create. His bones are reposing beneath the clods far from his native land & before he was enabled to preach peace to his brethren — but we hope that in many a bosom there was lighted a flame of love to Heathen, while surrounding the grave of Gary Chew, which years of conflict & toil & danger, will not extinguish — which will exert itself in efforts to reclaim & renew them & point them to the Heaven, which we believe he is now enjoying. In future years when the Indian listens to the accents of the gospel, which the devoted missionary proclaims, he will be told the lesson that was learned at the dying pillow & the grave of Chew — & when the scattered remnants of the Indians that shall not have wasted away, are gathered to one fold & to the enjoyments of religious blessings, we hope there will be many to look back & acknowledge with gratitude, the mysterious Providence that ordered his body to be committed to the dust & his simple monument to be erected by "The Brethren of the Theological Seminary of Princeton".

We hope, dear Brethren, you will join your prayers with us. that this solemn event may be rightly improved & that by it the interests of our common Lord may be promoted. We commend you to God & his grace & pray that you may be successful in every good word & work, prepared for faithfully serving God in your pilgrimage & enjoying him in your Eternity.

Yours in the fellowship of Christ.

Copied for Mr Coxe

For Society of Enquiry.

J. H. Riddle

2nd Ass^to Secry

Glasgow

Princeton Theological Seminary, May 12th 1826

Dear Brethren

Your letter dated October 4th 1825 we ~~received~~ read on the first day of may 1826. As this is the week of our examination and we have not another meeting till August, we hasten to answer you, lest you should be again disappointed of our annual letter. We regret this circumstance because the anniversaries of our national benevolent Societies are celebrated this week at New York, and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church meets next week at Philadelphia, and many facts may be developed that would add interest to our communication. We are a young people. Our love of novelty produces frequent and great changes in our benevolent and pious operations; but we rejoice in the belief that they are among the "turnings and overturnings" that will directly establish the throne of "him whose right it is to reign." We thank you for a letter full of important facts that tell on the common cause in which we are engaged; and the spirit that clothes them has warmed our hearts and excited new desires for the promotion of Zion.

That one subject to which our correspondence is limited presents several prominent features, all of which seem essential to its correct and animated expression.

The Am. Board of Comrs for foreign missions, at Boston, & the United Foreign missionary Soc. at New York are now forming an union of their operations. These Societies have nine stations in Bombay and Ceylon, with ten missionaries, one missionary at Malta and three at Palestine; one at Hayti; two in S. America five stations in the Sandwich Islands with ~~eight missionaries~~ eight missionaries; twenty six stations among the North American Indians, with fifteen missionaries, seventeen assistant miss and twenty teachers. Nearly all these missions are prosperous, and several of them have been blessed with numerous converts. The seamen of our Country will be civilized and Christianized. They have already furnished fine specimens of intelligent, accomplished and pious men and women. Our Government is favourable to these missions. Our last report from Lahina (Sandw. Is) where our mission is of but two years standing, is full of interest. The missionary has to turn the people out of his house at night and finds them waiting at his door in the morning to know what they must do to be saved. The Society are exploring Africa, intending to carry the gospel there in connexion with the

Colonization Soc.

But, Brethren, your continent, we believe, must look to G Britain for the gospel, must look to you. The Canada's, mexico, and South America have recently become accessible to evangelical missionaries. Toleration is not fully established, but ten fold more needs to be done than is in our power. Intelligent men from those countries agree on the facility of doing good with Bibles and Spanish tracts. Our own States are missionary ground. The tide of emigration from Europe to our country is unchecked, and our own citizens continue to push their fortunes west and south faster than we can follow them with the gospel. The increase of ministers is not proportional to our increase of population, though great exertions have been made within a few years for bringing forward the right class of young men to the pulpit.

These facts will explain the preference given in this country to domestic missions. Within the last year a domestic miss. Soc for South Carolina has been formed and promises to be useful. A dom. m. Soc. was formed recently at Philadelphia, and the liberality of the subscribers raises high hopes of its future usefulness. But the United domestic miss. Soc. of New York is the most important and useful institution of this kind among us. It now supports

miss. The plan of this Soc. is to have its miss.s stationed, and if possible gain part of their support from the people to whom they preach, and eventually become their pastors.

The American Bible Soc. has enlarged its sphere of operations and been increased by 65 new auxiliaries during the past year. The American Tract Soc. established at New York last year is patronized by all the evangelical denominations, and is doing great good. We look to it for tracts in the French & Spanish languages for mexico and South America.

Our German Reformed brethren in Pennsylvania have established a theological seminary at Carlisle, and are now issuing a small religious newspaper in the german language. We look for the revival of religion among them.

Our Baptist brethren have established a theological seminary near Boston, with two able professors, one of

them Rev Francis Wayland. They have four missionaries in Burmah and five among our natives.

Evangelical ministers of good qualifications are increasing rapidly in the Episcopal Church. Its prospects have brightened fast within the last year.

The Gen. Assembly of our church will locate a new Seminary this year, probably in Ohio. The Synod of South Carolina have established a Theo. Sem. for their State which will probably be in operation this year. Several new Colleges have been established in the past year, most of them under presbyterian influence. The Unitarians are labouring for the control of the Colleges; and we are sorry to say, four of our Colleges founded by orthodox and pious men are in their hands. The ~~religion~~ interest of religion and of our Colleges are identical. The Unitarians make but few proselytes among the common people, and we have no doubt their power at Boston, the seat of error, is declining.

The christian education of the common people is becoming every day an object of higher interest in the middle & Southern states where it has been too much neglected. Legislators are giving it their influence, and as an index of the feelings of christians on this subject we would mention the fact that delicate young ladies form societies, and go two at a time and teach large schools of the almost heathens in the pines and mountains of N Jersey.

The Sabbath Schools have formed a general Union at Philadelphia, which is now sending agents to form schools in all parts of the United States. From this institution we are taught by past experience to expect more than from any other in America.

Brethren, the day has dawned, and the day star from on high has visited our churches. The past year has been distinguished above all others in the history of our country by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the northern & middle states. A large proportion of the students in Middlebury & Dartmouth Colleges have been made hopeful subjects of saving grace, and by our last report from Williams college (Massachusetts) there were but three unconverted students there and they were serious men. We have hardly room left for a list of the places in which from 40 to 80 or 400 have been added to the Lord of such as we trust shall be saved; and perhaps this work has at no time been more powerful than at. All the teachers and many of the scholars in some large sabbath schools have been within a few weeks converted

unto God. "This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes". We are able to state that these revivals are distinguished by a clear, pointed and affectionate preaching of the doctrines of grace. Very little of terror or external excitement is seen in the awakened, but meetings containing some hundreds of such, are silent and solemn; and the converts give a reason of the hope that is within them with meekness and fear.

Our number in the Sem. is one hundred & fourteen. many of us will probably enter the service of the but we know of none among us professedly devoted to Foreign missions. One of our number has gone since our last communication, to join your five brethren who sleep in Jesus. They admonish us of duty, and allure us from the world. Brethren, we are in our hearts to live and labour with you in the cause of our Master, and to complete our acquaintance when Jesus shall present us to each other in the Kingdom of his Father. May his grace preserve you to that happy hour. Farewell

C. Mc.

Transcribed by J. F. M.D.
Sent to the Brethren at Glasgow

To the Members of the German Reformed Seminary Carlisle -

Society of Enquiry &c Theological Sem^{y}
Princeton August 1st 1826 —

Dear Brethren,

Your letter according to our proposal to open a correspondence was received in due time —. We desire to intimate our satisfaction & great pleasure that the wish, which we expressed, should be so cordially welcomed & returned ——. Our design in desiring a correspondence, was cherished not so much with the expectation, that either of us would communicate to the other much that was unknown, as with the hope that an opportunity would be afforded to excite each other to love & good works — to assist by mutual admonitions — mutual exhortations & affectionate counsel. Living, as we do, in a day when the knowledge of passing events, is so extensive & so easily diffused, we do not expect to call your attention to many things entirely new, nor dowe reasonably look for much of such information in return, yet we hope, Brethren, that such will not be altogether wanting on either side. As for ourselves we know little of that respectable body to which you belong, and would gladly hear, nay earnestly wish to hear much respecting it —— We hope Brethren, by our correspondence, we shall encourage each other, to proceed boldy in that path in which we have entered, & having put our hand to the plough, not to look back, but prepare ourselves for more active service. We think we feel something of the importance of engaging in the Gospel Ministry, & we trust the same feelings occupy your breasts also. When we look at the responsibilities, the duties & dangers of this office, we are almost involuntarily forced to exclaim "Who is sufficient for these things", It is well therefore that we are taught not to rely upon ourselves, but to rely upon the Great Head of the Church himself. If he has called us to this honourable employment, he will direct, & support us. His mighty arm will shield us. And Brethren, while the consideration of our weakness & perfect insufficiency, humbles us, while it tears from us all that assumed dignity, with which we are too often apt to invest ourselves, does it not present to us at the same time this office of the Christian Ministry in a most ennobling view — God our helper, our director! the governor of his Church working together with us! we fellow labourers with us! an honour too little prized! — Too little estimated at its proper value! Too little sought with pure & holy motives! & Brethren, it is no wonder, that when we cease to contemplate the ministry in its proper light, as combining humility & honour in man, and throwing around him the investiture

* a mistake in the author — not transcriber —

of sacredness & awful responsibility and look it only as an office hon-
-ourable among men (as indeed it is the most honourable of all forget-
-ting its true character, its true design — that pride is apt to rise
that ambition, emolument, or other unhallowed motive should urge
us to assume the sacred profession — It is but too true — for we
cannot doubt the evidence of daily experience — it is but too true
that many take upon themselves, this office, while they have need
to be taught the first principles of the doctrine of Christ, Brethren
let us sanctify ourselves, that we may be meet for the master's service,
prepared for every good work — Let us remember that we are at best
but weak unworthy instruments — Let us give all the honour to God
and in due time we shall receive our master's approbabation if we
faint not — — We rejoice in your outward prosperity —
The hearts of all are in the hands of the Lord — may he therefore
incline your Brethren in the land of your forefathers, liberally to
contribute of their abundance to your wants. A new institution
needs many friends, & we trust that God will raise up — both abroad
& in our own country — those who will assist & patronize the endeav-
-ours of your Church. We hail the commencement of your seminary —
— may the day in which it was founded, be remembered in future
ages as one in which God exhibited peculiar favour! When the
historian of the Church, shall record glorious things of Lion, may
the name of your institution be noticed with gratitude & joy! may
many streams from it, issue forth to make glad the city of our
God. Yet remember, Brethren, much of its future state pros-
-perity & benefit to the Church, depends on you —
You have no doubt seen an account of a revival at Jamaica Long Is.
— it still continues with undiminished power. The Lord is
doing a great work there. We expect soon to greet on his return from
a foreign land, one who was formerly a member of this institution —
— the Revd McC Stewart in the Sandwich Islands when he
laboured as a missionary — his exertions have been crowned with
success. From him we hope to receive many interesting facts res-
-pecting the scene of his labours, & the glorious work wrought
by the instrumentatily of the missionary — Our number
is at present about one hundred & ten —

Messrs Brethren in the bonds of Christ
In behalf of the Secy of Inquiry &c
James Nowrse 1st associate Secry

To the Society of Enquiry on Missions
Theological Seminary N. Brunswick &c.

Theological Seminary Princeton Sept. 1826

Dear Brethren,

In reciprocating the feelings & attending to the communications of our correspondents, we are liable to interruptions and apparent negligences, which do not usually attend the correspondence of individuals. And, probably from the variety & extent of our connexions, & the consequent multiplicity of our duties, we feel the disadvantages more sensibly than our younger & less extensive Sister Societies. We must request your consideration to this circumstance, if should compare with either surprise or regret the date of this, with the date of your affectionate & friendly letter of Nov. 14th 1825. The cause of delay for some time during the summer was the apprehension that the regulation mentioned in your last, of discontinuing your operations during that period, was still in existence.

In respect to the sentiments with which your letter begins, we have need of that charity which "suffereth long" & "thinketh no evil," amidst the apparent incongruities of life, to keep alive & brightening the flame which serves to chase so many of its darkness, & to illumine so many of its intricacies. It may be hard to analyze that love, which communities like ours have for each other, & it may be hard to know exactly how that love is to be most powerfully strengthened — we may fail in our attempts to increase & give interest to our connexion, and the organ of communication from a body may not acquire the sympathies & congeniality, & confidence, of personal friendship & individual affection, yet we cannot doubt for a moment, let the subject be viewed in any light, but that this love, & congeniality, & sympathy, & confidence is nearly connected with the truest interests of that cause, to which we all are equally bound, & of that Redeemer, whom we all personally love. — One common centre of affection, might bind together men of discordant feelings, & conflicting interests, or one common aim might reconcile the most incongenial, & that unity of affection & of purpose would be every thing to their success, — would give tenfold vigour to every act, & tenfold energy to every purpose, & should not the scattered materials of the body of Christ into unity of purpose, and wielding the sword of opposition & of conquest against hell & its allies, wield it with an hundredfold success, from unity of design! —— While enjoying the advantages of our respective & beloved Institutions, the full amount of importance in our connexion, & the full value of this prospective unity may not be understood or appreciated, & the means by which it is strengthened & increased may not be so diligently sought or so carefully. We are not yet on arena of action — we are not yet

mingling in the turmoil of the conflict; we know not what peculiar advantages or disadvantages attend the strife. The Battle viewed afar off, and the Battle in its carnage & confusion, - in all its fearfull ambiguity & ever varying prospects, are different. It is the part of wisdom, to prepare, for every difficulty & strengthen the probability of success, by every possible precaution.

We know not how soon, the conflict which will summon all the energies of Christianity, will commence. We do know, that its enemies are condensing & concentrating. We do see, when we look over the world, the scattered cavalcades of opposition, meeting & mingling, as if by some mighty & mysterious influence. We see approximating into into union, powerful forces which formerly had nothing in common, but enmity to Holiness & the Cross; and we do expect has thickened & darkened, which is now brooding over the world, it will pour forth a deluge, which nothing but the concentrated energies of Christianity can resist, & nothing but the purest principles of Godliness can survive. It is madness to object against this gloomy view, that the Church will ultimately triumph & that its Guide, & its Guardian, is he who hath the keys of Death & Hell; We believe both, and blessed be God, both are matters of the strongest encouragement; if we persevere in the use of the proper means, & abandon not the rational & natural grounds of success: vigilance, activity, & union. But we know not thro' what fiery ordeals, the purity of the Church is to be perfected, & what dark & disastrous ages are to precede, the Millennial Glory. It is ours to employ the powers we possess, against enemies we see; - to fear the consequences of dangers that are every day growing, & when we have done all, to trust the cause to Him whose it is. - Let us, brethren, be united in this war. - let us not weaken the force of opposition, to our common enemies by the distraction of our efforts - While we are different churches, different divisions in the host - let our aims, our means, our glory be One. ~

Not only in the defensive war is unity & activity, at this period necessary, but in what might, by keeping up the figure, be called the offensive. In enlarging the boundaries of the kingdom of our Immanuel, & in spreading the light of life to regions yet in the undisturbed slumbers of Heathenism. "There is much land yet to be possessed." Many millions have not been invited to become the servants of Jesus; & there is a strange apathy hanging over the minds of the millions who are professedly his subjects, the heirs of his glory, & the devoted friends of his cause. The fate of the millions who are buried beneath the blackness of Pagan error excites less interest, of frequently, than the decision of some unessential

dogma; & but error should be carried out mingled with the bread of life, many who profess to be not their own, but bought with a price, foist themselves in indiscreetly, while daily & hourly the subjects of their merciful compassion are sinking to the land of changeless horror! We are all too cold & inactive on this subject & we imagine that something more than a prospective, something more minute than a computation of millions, something more definite than the general Ideas of Paganism, Heathenism, Idolatry, are necessary to awaken us to a right feeling. The mistake on Missionary subjects, is too frequently made from the vagueness & generality of the Knowledge or Impression. While we cast our eye over a mighty tract of country, & see it swarming with population, we feel but vaguely that each one of that population is destined to endure, for weal or woe, after the kingdoms & the changes of this world have passed away! that each one of that population has a world of interests, which will transpire - & a world of feeling, which will be wolved during the mysterious & onward Eons of Eternity. This vague impression is natural & common; it is fostered by every days feelings, & makes a part of every day practical judgment, yet it is death to all real missionary feeling & would paralyze every missionary exertion. Real & definite knowledge is the only effectual method of correcting this error. And there is nothing that we mourn over so much among ourselves, as the prevalence of these vague & frigid ideas, and the little attention to the proper means of correcting them; & nothing would we more sincerely deprecate among you. One letter from the mouth of a living Missionary is worth a month speculation. One picture drawn by a feeling hand, of the utter wretchedness of our Poor fellow sinners, in the land of Pagan darkness, or one god made by mans hand, & habited as the object of the stupid adoration of immortal beings, would make a louder appeal to our sympathies, if we have any sympathies, than years of abstract reasoning on the total depravity & prospective impiety of the Heathen family. Such pictures we have seen, such a God our hands have handled. And such immortal beings, are living - dying - at this moment!

Brethren - we need animation. & we endeavour to feel, while we endeavour to exhibit it. In a short time, in a few years at farthest, the peaceful & delightful scenes of preparatory study will be relinquished. Is there any among you, to whom the condition of the Heathen world - the example of Brainerd, of Martyn, & Stewart, - the command of the God whom you serve, will not speak in vain? Are there not some among you, who, unaided by external circumstances, amidst toil & self denial would

would glory to bear to a sinking fellow Immortal, that peace, & pardon, & comfort which the Son of God, amidst privations, & toils, & death, made it possible for us to enjoy? Is there one whose faith could live, unfed by the comforts & conveniencies of civilization, & whose hope could bloom beyond the prospect of earthly ease, & whose love to God & his fellow men could burn as brightly amidst the wilds of Africa — the Isles of the ocean — the degradation of the Hottentots, as in the comfortable Parsonage of his native land or in the stately Temples of his country's cities. —— "This is the victory that overcometh the world even our faith" We pray that your faith may not fail — that your paths may be plain, & that in the day when each of us shall give account of his Stewardship, it may be found that neither want of faith, nor love of ease, nor pride of learning, nor vain excuses, have prevented any of us from doing all that it was our duty to do, to glorify God, & promote the best interest of man. ——

Our session closes the 25th inst, & the vacation continues 6 weeks from that time. —— The College session closes at the same time, & assembles after the usual vacation. —

Yrs in the affection of the Gospel.

In behalf of the Society for Enquiry on religious

of the Theo Seminary Princeton N. J.

David H. Riddle. 2nd Associate Secretary.

James Hawthorn
Copyist. Dec. 18th 1826

To the Society of Enquiry at Andover

Dear Brethren Princeton Sept. 1st 1826 –

Your last friendly letter was received with pleasure, & our hearts deceive us if they do not fully respond to those sentiments of brotherly kindness and Charity which your communication contains. There is no reason why we should not cherish the most cordial and affectionate feelings towards each other. And if other dispositions should be found in the hearts of those who bear to each the relations which we sustain, however they might disguise themselves under the pretence of holy zeal and earnestness for the truth, we know that such feelings would not be the fruits of that spirit which worketh love & peace, but the offspring of those unhallowed passions which can have by our connection with that man who first introduced into our world corruption and woe. It is a law of our nature indeed that we must love those who have in their characters the greatest share of what appears correct in opinion, amiable in disposition & blameless in conduct; for as love arises from a harmony between souls every thing which we have in the slightest degree disturbs that harmony will in such degree interrupt the full & perfect flow of affections. And as we cannot expect to find on earth any where opinions feelings & habits perfectly blend even down to the minutest shades with our own; we cannot expect to meet with any with whom our ~~souls~~ hearts will be perfectly united & knit together untill we reach that home of our father where none shall any longer see imperfection in his brother, when the light of Gods countenance shall chase away all darkness from our minds, when the love of Jesus shall refine every feeling of our souls and when the hearts of all shall be as the heart of one man.

When however differences of opinion or feeling are slight as any must be which exist between you & us) when we have similarity of pursuit, community of trials & identity of one great interest to cherish in us a reciprocal affection; when above all we know that we have one

hope of our calling one spirit one hand one faith one baptism one god and father of all we have the strongest array of motives which can be presented before our minds to preserve us in that unity of the spirit wh forms so beautiful a characteristic of the early followers of our master, And we feel dear brethren, unless we greatly deceive ourselves that we share wh an affection for your which opportunity presented itself would be testified not in word only but in truth". we rejoice in your prosperity and pray that your Institution may continue what it is a blessing to the ch'h and to the world, Who that prefers Jerusalem to his chief joy can do otherwise than rejoice when he sees the ch'h enriched with so many and such increasing means of training her future teachers, and raising up a minority which shall live to the honor of the master's name O! Jerusalem may our right hand forget its cunning; & we would be forgetting Jerusalem were our right hands not stretched ~~out~~ forth with cordiality and delight to welcome all who approach to the work of ~~the hand~~ our master with the sentiments and in the spirit wh we trust pervades and influences your minds -

We have but little to communicate in the way of information as we have but few facilities for acquiring it which you do not enjoy - The plan of locating a Seminary in the West under the superintendence of the general assembly is the only object of much importance wh at present engages the interest of our ch'h, though the proposition has met with the approbation of the assembly the site of the seminary has not yet been chosen & it will not probably commence its operations under a couple of years - The effect of such an institution operating in the spot will probably be the means of diffusing the blessing of an enlightened ministry to a much greater extent among the inhabitants of the west than could be effected by all the supplies wh can be sent from our eastern Institutions,

Our Seminary contains at present about 110 members: of this number nearly thirty are going forth in a few weeks to proclaim the offers of redeeming ~~love~~ mercy: of the full half are going to the South & west - he knows not what there be any who has determined to spend he life among the heathen: although much of ~~much~~ attention of late has been made awakened on that subject; and we trust that our master will incline some of our hearts to take part in the children

of Idolatry — We have seen the account of those who were some months since set apart for to the high and sacred office of missionaries of the cross. He who called Fisk & Desors to the reward has already filled up their places. — We may be cut down cut down and finish but the cause of God shall prosper; — This is the strong consolation of every soldier of the cross; and he who truly serves his master will rejoice to die in his cause. if his body may serve as a stepping stone on which he who follows may mount to struggle with more success against the power of the common foe. We pray that a missionary spirit may continue within your walls, and that as each succession band goes forth to its field of labor, it may transfuse a portion of its spirit into them who remain, and incline the hearts of some of them to follow in their steps, that thus a perpetual stream may flow forth from your seminary in form a fountain of God to revive & fertilize the barren parts of the earth. It will be a glorious achievement if any of us can assist in forwarding that day which soon must come when the high places of the heathen shall be laid low when the bow & the spear shall be broken when dentations shall cease throughout the ends of the earth and when Jehovah shall be the God of the Nations, Brother pray for us that our hearts may not faint, nor our hands grow weary in the work of the Lord — Your brother in the bonds of christian love.

In behalf of the Society in Enquiry

Jeh C Young
Cor. Sec —

Copy of a letter to Mr. Leander Sackett, missionary-
Maumee mission (near Fort Meigs) Wood Co. Ohio.

Theol. Semy. Princeton N.J. Sept 1st 1826

Dear Sir,

Our reply to your interesting communication has been delayed, not because we were regardless of your wishes, but from a desire, if possible, fully to comply with your request. Your description of the languishing condition of your ~~request~~ church, & of the moral desolations around you, & your earnest entreaty that some one of our number would come over to your help, deeply affected our hearts. Anxious to give you the assurance which you requested, the Society appointed a committee to ascertain whether there were any member of the present first class, who felt constrained to comply with your earnest and affectionate invitation. But our attempts have proved fruitless. So urgent and direct are the calls addressed to us from different portions of our Southern & Western States, that our minds have been perplexed, and of our present Senior class no one has felt it his duty definitely to engage for the supply of your vacant church; tho' it is probable some one of our present number will visit you during the ensuing winter. The question of duty which presents itself to those who are shortly to leave this institution, is one which cannot be easily & ought not to be rashly determined; for on it depends our happiness and usefulness in present life, our reward in that which is to come, and the eternal welfare perhaps of hundreds.

We know that it is at once our duty and privilege, diligently to observe, and implicitly to follow the leadings of God's Spirit, and the indications of his providence. Yet we are so imperfectly acquainted with our prevailing motives of action, with our individual and peculiar qualifications, and with the particular wants and circumstances of distant and destitute churches & counties or so embarrassed by various difficulties apparently insurmountable, that it is scarcely possible to form plans or to make engagements in reference to the future.

We trust therefore, dear Sir, that you & your christian friends will not be discouraged by the reply which we are compelled reluctantly to return to your affectionate letter. Continue rather earnestly to pray that God in his good providence would send you a pastor to break unto you the bread of life & that he would graciously watch over us and direct our steps in the path way of duty and of usefulness. For the information contained in your letter in relation to the wants of your mission, & the destitute condition of your church, & for the appeal made to our hearts we return you our thanks. Our sympathies were excited and we were induced more fervently to unite with you, in supplicating the great Lord of the harvest to send out labourers.

The harvest indeed is great — the field is the world — and from distant foreign climes, as well as from the destitute parts of our own country, the most affecting appeals are almost daily made to our christian sympathies — to those feelings of compassion for the perishing heathen, which must exist in every pious heart, & which we dare not oppose — lest haply we be found even against God.

But a few days since we were favoured with a short visit from the Rev. Charles Stuart, who has been labouring so successfully in the Sandwich Islands. You have probably heard that in consequence of the dangerous illness of Mrs. Stuart, he has been compelled to return to his native country. He assures us that he left the scene of his labours with great reluctance, and testifies that the life of a missionary tho' attended by many hard privations, is yet a life of happiness as well as of honour. The natives of these Islands are about 150,000 in number.

Of whom not more than 10,000 have heard the sound of the gospel. Some vague rumours of the benefits conferred upon these, by the labours of the Missionaries, have reached the inhabitants of the more distant Isles, and they are now desirous of listening to the preaching of the gospel of Christ; they are waiting for his law. A field of missionary labour equally encouraging, & of much wider extent is presented in the island of Ceylon, & among the 1.000.000's of India. Of these degraded miserable Pagans some are now casting away their Idols & in temples erected for sacrificing to demons & to the works of their own hands, the Lord is now worshipped in the beauty of holiness.

While therefore we mourn over the desolations of Zion in our own own country, & over those parts of our earth which are still the habitations of darkness and of cruelty, it becomes us to give thanks unto our God for those wondrous effects of his grace, those glorious accomplishments of his promises, which are exhibited among some of the most ignorant and idolatrous nations. Surely by these events we are encouraged to confide in the mighty power, the truth, and faithfulness of him who has promised that "the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord." For the speedy and the complete fulfilment of this glorious promise, we should be excited to hope & to pray, by the dispensations of divine grace in our own Land. In the extensive revivals of religion which have taken place in many parts of our own country, and especially in the eastern part of this state, the converts are principally found among the young. It is said that in Elizabethtown these are not less than 100 in number. Upon several of our colleges the Holy Spirit has been abundantly poured out; and in some the pro-

proportion of pious students is unusually great. Among these many will doubtless be found, who will cheerfully and laboriously employ their lives in preaching to the destitute of our own country the glorious gospel of the Son of God. And shall we not confidently hope and earnestly pray that many also may be found who constrained by the love of Christ, by the example of him, who tho' he was rich yet for our sakes he became poor, & by tender compassion for the perishing Heathen, will not count their own lives dear unto themselves, that they may testify the gospel of the grace of God, among those who know him not, and who are worshipping idols that cannot save.

You will probably be pleased to hear that the number of students now in the Seminary is about 110. Thirty of these are members of the first class. I will leave the Sem'y. in about 3 weeks. To preach the gospel in different and distant portions of our own country.

Assuring you of our earnest desires for the success of your mission, & the prosperity of your church, & requesting an interest in your prayers.

I am, Dear Sir

In behalf of the Society for Enquiry on Missions

Yours affty.

W. H. Williams

2. Cor. Secy.

D. B. Preston. Rescripsit Sep. 28. 26

Theleg Sem Prem Dec 1826

To the Society of inquiry in Epis Sem at Alexandria

Dear Brethren

The delay occasioned by our cavation in the Seminary have prevented us from returning an answer to your friendly & truly christian letter of the 9 of Feb We heartily unite with you in the wish with which you close your satisfactory statement of the state of your church. That nothing may occur to prevent the free & Christian correspondence which has commenced between us. No dear brethren we belong to the same holy though comparatively little land that are following in the footsteps of our Divine & Adorable Redeemer And it would ill become those whose union has been sealed by the blood of that covenant which unites us as members to one blessed Leader to permit unimportant differences to interrupt that flow of holy affection which constitutes one of the sweetest antepasts of heaven This union of heart & cooperation of labour promises much to the christian who is occupied in contemplating the advancement of the Mosiahs kingdom in the world Instead of those disultory and therefore inefficient assaults on the empire of Satan He with joy beholds a consolidation of forces whose aim is one & 1 whose attacks are continued on the territory of the fee Had protestant Christendom united her forces with the simple but holy bond of unitas fratrum that leade the way in the missionary field and had the same success attended them The night of Paganism on the [illegible] had rolled away And yes us had been praised from the rising to the setting sun But oh we fail with you the signs of the times Christendom has arisen from her protracted slumbers The mighty angel has commenced his flight through the heavens Bearing the everlasting gospel in his hand But a few years have rolled away and our blood country caught the missionary spirit and she two has joined that band which has marched for the conquest of the moral world Doubtless you Dear brethren reave with ardour the missionary intelligence that is circulating through our land and have seen that impassioned appeal which has reached us from the lamented Gardenhall When it was made in our seminary it thrilled through every heart and when two the mournful intelligence reached us that this faithful watchman had fallen on his distant post the impression was grotely deepened A spirit we hope a deep spirit in the cause of missions Dear Brethren we regain to inform you has been kindled in our seminary and a hyper tone of sentiment has been occasioned by it and we trust there are a few who can with sincerity respond to the call for labourers among the heathen Here Lord am I send me and it would we doubt not regain your souls to behold the deep the intense interest which some of our Members take in this cause the ardent longing which they turn to this subject and which they indulge that the Great Heade of the church would send them unworthy as they feel themselves to bear his cause to the gentiles But we boast not we made your prayers brethren that some of our member at least may go forth and proclaim amid the darkness of paganism and proclaim a crucifyed redeemer The field is vast and the complaint of our Saviour still retains its force the labourers are

from every day almost some interesting portion of unevangelised heathe=
=ism is forced upon our attention especially the southern republicks of our
hemisphere which we cannot but that God has designed to cooperate
with us in advancing his kingdom We are bound by cords of unus
ual obligation to bleeding ingured Africa we are much to make
reparation for the ingurry done in the slave trade And we unite
with you in trusting that a great and effectual door has been
opened for messianary enterprise By the providence of god through
the colonisation society to which we gave an unqualified approbat
=ion and earnest prayers and which we hope will do much to ad
=vance the interest of religion in that immense and unexplored region
The considerations are not novel to you But we hope that if by your
correspondence we may stimulate one an other to good works and
thus the interest of of our Redeemers kingdom be advanced you will
excuse this society of interesting intelligence We importunately intrate
an interest in your petitions at a throne of grace that the spirit of
Christ may dwell in us actively and we be stimulated to increased
& Zeal and devotedness in the cause of Jesus The same blessings on
your seminary and society we remain yours in the bonds of christian
fellowship

Send by order of Society

Thomas L J Mercury

P S Since writing the above we have received two letters
one from Scotland one from Edinburgh association of theological Stude
nts and the other from the divinity hall Glasgow Containing a fund
of useful and important information A succinct statement of which
the society has informed me to communicate In a statistical table
which is instituted in the letter a view is given of the different denomina
tions and A exhibiting a total 1813 Ministers in Scotland 18 of which belong
to your church The venerable society for the diffusion of Christian
knowledge which you know was formed in 1709 and took the leade
in messianary operations Still continues to diffuse its wholesome
influence throughout the highlands of scotland A pleasing account
is given of the cooperation of other societies with the above mentioned
Bible societies are flourishing in every town & county which pour into
the treasury of the lord $12,000 Sabbaoth schools flourish
But while Scotland displays her bountys at home she has not
been unmindful of the besotted slaves of Pagenism The heralds of the
cross have issued fourth and have planted the standard of immanuel
in many parts of heathenism The letter from Glasgow commences by
adverting to the obliging which we engage of seeing what Kings & prophets long
ed to see the operation of that vast moral machinery which the providence
of god has erected to move the moral world to its centre The speaker
of the messian into Russia being cramped by their lawless despotism which
in the plenitude of its power has been pleased to say to the rolling
waves of christian liberty others far shall thou roll and no farther
Mohamed Ali a converted mussulman has been forbidden by the gover
ment to preach Jesus Christ and has been translated by a college
in the wilds of Siberia After deploring the unfortunate condition

of Ireland they communicate the welcome intelligence that among the 2 Millions that speaks the Gallic the bible in that dialect is extensively circulated And that the schoolmasters and others have presented to the Primate of Ireland a doccumand which recognises their indefasable right of reading the scripture in spite of any church a priest whatever Intelligence they communicate from Geneva that same have risen in the bosom of the fallen church to vindicate the divinity of the Lord that bought them 3 Churches have been erected for Mr Melan the orthodox minister to accomodate the member which wish to flock around the standard of Jesus They conclude by saying that a missionary spirit has been kindled in the 4 venerable universalists Oh Dear Leather this is good news Praise the Lord with us and hope will soon come when a claude of universal praise will rise from the world to the throne of the eternal It would do us good to communicate more of this hearte cheering intelligence But our limits forbid You will excuse the laconick character of this as it is an extract from two large letters

~~T L Jany Ass Sec~~
Thomas L. Janeway Ass. Sec.

Copied by Robert Henry
of Pittsburgh. Pa. —

Canaan

Theol. Sem. Princeton Jan. 1st 1827

The Soc. of Inquiry on Missions & the State of Religion.

To

The Edinburgh Association of Theol. Students for the diffusion of Christian Knowledge—

Dear Brethren,

Your very acceptable letter of the 28th April 1826, accompanied by a parcel of interesting Missionary publications, was, to our regret, detained a long time in New York. It did not reach us until the beginning of December.

Your proposal for a correspondence with our Soc. we receive & accede to with unfeigned pleasure. Much of the interest & utility of our Association is derived from the intercourse which we hold with Societies similar to yours, and with Missionaries in various parts of the world; and it is peculiarly gratifying to add your Soc. to the list of those with whom we correspond. We hail with delight the formation of Societies in Scotland whose object is the same with our own; viz. the promotion of our common Redeemers glory in the salvation of our fellow men. We regard you as our coworkers in the same great vineyard, & as our brethren: and we shall rejoice to communicate with you on the subjects in which we feel a common interest. One of the objects of our Soc. as its name imports is to obtain information on the state of religion in our own & in foreign lands. The intelligence contained in your letter was therefore interesting & useful to us. If we can in return, by communicating such information as we possess, contribute any thing to promote the object of your Association it will give us pleasure.

In a single letter it is impossible to give you more than a condensed abstract of the state of religion, and of evangelical operations in our country. We however present a few statements which we conceive will be interesting to you.

Of the various denominations of Christians in the U. States, the most efficient are the Presbyterians & the Congregationalists. The latter are principally in New England. The most favored portion of our country with respect both to the general diffusion of religious knowledge & to the remarkable effusions of the Holy Spirit, which have attended the streams of grace. They have about 1100 ordained ministers. The Presbyterians are extended over a vast territory stretching from the river St Lawrence on the North to the Gulf of Mexico on the South: and from the Atlantic to the Mississippi. The last

annual narative of the state of religion within the bounds of the Gen. Assembly, represents the condition of the churches as on the whole prosperous. About 80 of our congregations & more than 100 of the sister congregations in New England, are reported as having been blessed in an unusual manner during the past year, with the out-pourings of the Holy Spirit. In these congregations there is reason to believe that several thousand persons have, in the course of the year been converted to God. Forty years ago our church consisted of 1 Synod & 6 Presbyteries. Now we have 16 Synods, 86 Presbyteries, about 1200 ordained ministers, 180 licentiates & 200 candidates for the ministry under the care of our Presbyteries. But rapid as this increase has been, it bears but a small ratio to the increase of our population, or the demand for ministers. There are now in connection with the Gen. Assembly not far from 800 churches destitute of pastors; and in many parts of our country, particularly in the South & West the population is increasing with unexampled rapidity, while there is by no means a correspondent increase of ministers. Thousands of people live & die with little or no religious instruction of any kind. Even in N. England there are many vacant congregations — The Synod of Reformed Dutch Church numbers 180 churches, of which 53 are vacant. The Baptists have 1000 destitute congregations, & the Episcopalians 100. But it is from our western & southern states that the Macedonian call is most loud & urgent. For years have the wants of a vast & growing population, who are perishing with a famine of the word of the Lord, been proclaimed in our ears. Nor have these calls been unheeded. We are happy to say that a deep & increasing interest in the condition of the destitute portions of the country is manifested by the pious & benevolent throughout the nation; and great efforts are made to supply them with ministers. For this purpose much has been accomplished by Societies for the education of indigent & pious for the ministry, & by Societies for Domestic Missions. The American Education Soc. the seat of whose operations is at Boston, has, during the 10 years of its existence, aprized more than 500 young men, some of whom have completed their education and are preaching the gospel to the destitute; while others are pursuing their studies in our Literary & Theological Seminaries. The Presbyterian Education Soc. at N. York & the Gen. Assembly's Board of Education at Philadelphia are also doing much for the education of young men for the ministry. These Societies may be regarded as the coadjutors of our Home Missionary Societies; of which the most important has been the U. S. Domestic Miss. Soc. This Society composed of the Presbyterian, Congregational, Associate

Reformed & Ref.d Dutch Church was in useful operation several years ago. In May last it was merged in a National Soc. called the American Home Miss. Soc. which it is confidently expected will unite & direct the efforts of the great body of the American people who are friendly to Domestic Missions. The U. P. Ch. S. during the last year of its operations, with an expenditure of $11000 employed 130 missionaries & rendered aid to 148 congregations bringing the blessings of a stated ministry within the reach of probably 80.000 or 90.000 souls, who without their aid would have remained comparatively destitute.

The Am. Sunday School Union we regard as one of the most important of all our institutions. It has 400 Auxiliaries, between 2 & 3000 schools, 19000 teachers & not far from 200 000 scholars. The system of Sabbath School instruction & of Bible classes seems destined to be the most powerful engine, next to the preaching of the gospel, in destroying the kingdom of the god of this world. For the details of the operations of the American Union and of the improvements which have been made in the S. School system in this country, we have great pleasure in referring you to the Annual Reports of the Union, & to the Am. S. School Magazine.

The Am. Bible Soc. is constantly enlarging the sphere of its influence. It has been in operation 10 years; during which time it has issued about 450 000 Bibles & Testaments & parts of the latter which have been distributed in our own & in foreign lands. During the last year 84 new auxiliaries were recognised; making the whole number of auxiliaries which have been recognised by the Soc. 506.

Another National Institution which is exerting a noiseless but powerful & salutary influence in this country, is the Am. Tract Soc. whose seat of operations is at N. York. It has been in operation less than 2 years; but it has printed & circulated in various countries nearly 400 000 tracts, which there is reason to believe will be read by more than that number of persons. No country presents a more inviting field for the operations of a National Tract Soc. than our own; & no Soc. can be in more favorable circumstances for occupying that field than the one of which we are speaking.

In Jan. last a Soc. was organized in N. York in behalf of Seamen. It is called "The Am. Seamen's Friend Soc." Its managers are energetic & pious men, and it promises great good to this interesting tho long neglected class of men.

Our countrymen have long lamented and are now endeavoring to meliorate the condition of our Slave population. Public sentiment especially in the slave holding states is undergoing a most salutary change. Anti Slave Societies are multiplying & great exertions

are made in many places for the religious instruction of the slaves. The Am. Col. Soc. has a flourishing colony at Cape Mesurado called Liberia. It consists of 500 free blacks - has 2 churches and 2 schools. This colony was planted in 1820. A memorial in behalf of the Col. Soc. will be presented to the present congress and we hope the time is near when the whole nation will unite in endeavoring to remove from among us this greatest of national evils.

Our Theol. Seminaries are flourishing. Our number in this Institution is about 100. Our sister Sem. at Andover N.E. has 180. The Sem. at Auburn N. York number 80 students. A school of Theology has recently been put into successful operation at Hampden Sydney Virginia. Another will probably soon be established by the Synod of South Carolina & Georgia. And our Gen. Assembly have taken measures to found a Theol. Seminary somewhere in the valley of the Mississippi. From this contemplated seminary we hope for great good to the immense multitudes of people settling in our western States & territories. The Synod of the Reformed Dutch has a Theol. School at New Brunswick N.J. The German Reformed & German Lutheran Churches have each a flourishing Theol. Sem. in Pensa. They are both under the instruction of evangelical & learned men, & we hope they will be great blessings to their respective churches.

The state of our colleges is also highly interesting flourishing. They are nurturing about 3000 of whom it is estimated that 600 or 700 are pious. During the past year the influence of the Holy Spirit has descended in a remarkable manner on many of the colleges, and many of the students have been converted to God. Our hearts are cheered with the intelligence that a very unusual work of Divine grace, is now going forward in the University of Georgia. The rich blessings which have been poured upon our Colleges, we regard as among the most auspicious events which have occurred in our Country. The objection that weak & ignorant people are the only converts in the revivals of religion with which our Land has been favoured is forever silenced. And an influence whose importance it is impossible to calculate is brought into the service of Christ & the Church.

It remains that we give you some account of the efforts made in our Country to propagate the Gospell among the heathen. The association in which by all others in America we as a Society feel most deeply interested is the "American Board of Commissioners for foreign missions". This Society which stands first in the rank of benevolent Institutions in the United States was originated in 1810, in consequence of

three or four young men whose hearts glowed with the desire to go to the Heathen having applied for counsel to the General Association of Ministers in Massachusetts. Before the present year its patronage was principally confined to N. England; but during the last summer a union has been formed between the "American Board" & the "United Foreign Miss^y Society" which like the United Domestic Missionary Society before mentioned, consisted of the Presbyterian, Reformed Dutch & Congregational Churches. This union is hailed with joy by all the Silent friends of both Societies. It will save much time, labour & expense; combine the energies of all who have patronised either of the two societies, and be the occasion of more efficient labours & more extensive & liberal sacrifices in the cause of Foreign Missions, than America has yet witnessed.

The American Board now support about 200 adult persons as Missionaries among the Heathen; including females & male assistants Labourers. Of this number 40 are preachers of the Gospel from this country and 6 are native Preachers and Interpreters. These Missionaries are at more than 40 stations. In Bombay & Ceylon — in the Sandwich Islands — in Malta — Syria — Palestine — Hayti — and among the American Indians. At these stations there are 23 organized Churches — near 200 Schools, and about 20,000 pupils. At several of the stations there are printing presses, which are pouring forth their blessings to thousands of Heathen who are learning to read. We are able to state to the Glory of Gods grace, that within the last 2 years several of the missions comprehended in this survey have enjoyed the special visitations of the Holy Spirit; and many of the Heathen have given evidence of being savingly converted. The society expended about $80,000 during the last year. The American Baptist Board of For^n Missions with an annual expenditure of about $20.000 support 63 Missionaries, in Burmah, in western Africa, and among the western Indians. Our methodist brethren also support missionaries about 20 in number in several tribes of Indians on our borders. No former period in the annals of American Missions has been so fraught with success as the past 2 years; and never was the prospect of future success so flattering as at the present time. The change of public sentiment on the subject of missions which has taken place within the last 15 years excites our wonder and our gratitude to God. In 1810. we had no Foreign Missionary Society — no Missionary had gone from Our Country to Foreign Lands and few were found who pitied or prayed for the Heathen. Now we have a National Missionary Society with its hundreds of tributary societies scattered over the whole country. Its Missionaries are publishing the Gospel to many of the nations, and tongues, and kings of the Earth, — and a deep and growing interest in the Miss^y cause is felt by thousands of our people who were then ignorant and indifferent on the subject. In effecting this happy

change, no cause has had so important an influence as the diffusion of information by means of our weekly and monthly religious publications. At the time just referred to, there was no religious News-paper among us.— But now nearly 100 of these evangelical heralds are sent forth every week; and they find their way into almost every town and village. We wish we could add into every family in the Country. It is found by experiment that no reasoning or persuasion is so effectual in exciting the people, to benevolent exertions, as the stating of facts. A missionary Sermon may be forgotten; an annual report, or a formidable pamphlet of periodical accounts may be neglected; but these weekly & monthly Journals bring the subject frequently & distinctly before the Public, and wherever there is real piety or charity it is called into exercise.

After giving you these accounts of evangelical operations in our Country, we feel conscious that (as you remark respecting benevolent exertions in Scotland) they are small compared with what they ought to be, & we do not boast of them. To use the Language of our lamented Missionary, the late Rev.d Gordon Hall. "We would not have our minds so allured & engrossed with the little that is done or doing, as to render us blind to the almost all that remains yet to be done. Instead of boasting, we feel impelled to mourn over the apathy of many of our Churches & some of our Ministers, especially in relation to Foreign Missions. It is indeed matter of devout thankfulness & joy that so much has been done in America & in Scotland and in England. But when we survey our dark world, & contemplate 3/4 of its population remaining at this day destitute of the Gospell. We cannot resist the conviction that in England & in Scotland & in America the efforts of Christians must be increased an hundred fold before we can rationally expect that the Nations will be evangelized. We fear that comparatively few of the professed Servants of the Redeemer either in England or America feel interest enough in his cause to induce any great self denial or sacrifices for its promotion. And from whom are we to expect exertions in this cause if not from British & American Christians! surely ~~not~~ no other nations can be expected to do as much. Brethren Our slumbering churches must be aroused to action; they must all arise together: and forming one united host must put forth their combined energies in this sacred warfare. Sectarian jealousies must be forgotten, in the one grand enterprize of evangelizing the world. There must be a mightier movement in Christendom than has yet been seen. And we believe that in originating & carrying forward this movement in diffusing the missionary Spirit, in spreading information respecting the state of the world. and in pressing upon the people their duty & their encouragement, as contained in the last command and promise of our Lord Jesus. Much very much must be done ~~in~~ by such associations as yours and ours. In ~~short~~ what other way

can a more important influence be exerted in favour of the Missionary cause, than by our Societies for inquiry on Missions? And for the diffusion of christian Knowledge? We trust, dear Brethren that you feel as deeply as ourselves the high responsibility that rests upon us as societies, and as individuals in relation to this subject; and we rejoice in the hope that your association will by the blessing of God be instrumental in doing great good both in your own Country and among the Heathen.

Our Society of inquiry has been in existence about 12 years and now embraces near all the Students in the Seminary. The two great objects which we have in view, are to obtain information on the State of the world; and to ascertain our duty — our personal duty in relation to the missionary enterprize. A plain principle which we recognize as lying at the basis of our Society is, that we are not our own, & that we profess ourselves willing to go wherever our Lord & Master is pleased to send us. Of course each individual of us acknowledges himself under sacred obligations to make the serious and honest inquiry "Is it my duty to become a Missionary? And we trust that some of our present number who have long been agitating this solemn inquiry with intense & prayerful interest will conclude to devote their lives to the service of the Lord among the Heathen. During the past year some of the ablest and most valued missionaries of the American Board have fallen at their posts. Our hope and prayer is that many a young Elisha in the schools of our prophets, will catch their falling mantles & imitate their holy zeal. We have no fear that our people will carry their exertions for the cause of missions to excess. We are full in the opinion that our country is not impoverished, but enriched by these exertions — that the Spirit of missions and the spirit of genuine christianity are identical. And that consequently the cultivation of this spirit is intimately connected with the prosperity of religion at home. We have before us a constant and unanswerable argument in favour of efforts for foreign Missions, in the fact that those sections of our country and those individual churches which have shared most liberally in their support, have also been most distinguished by the out-pouring of the Holy Spirit, and the prosperity of religion among themselves. Nor is this fact surprising; for it is only a living illustration of that principle of the Divine Government "the liberal soul shall be made fat" and "he that watereth shall be watered himself also".

We thank you for the parcel which accompanied your letter. In return we send some American publications which we conceive will be interesting to you. Permit us in a particular manner to recommend to your notice the circular Letter of the late Rev^d Mr Hall addressed to American christians. It is a document

which has produced a great sensation in this Country. The solemn fact that before we received it, the writer was in Eternity and seemed to address us from Heaven added to the intrinsic excellence of the letter, makes it exceedingly interesting. Perhaps you may deem it worthy of publication in your Missionary Journals. For intelligence on the subject of American Missions we refer you to the "Missionary Herald" the organ of communication between our National Miss'y Society and the Christian Public. This Paper has a very extensive publication in the United States. It is read by more than 20.000 families and exerts a silent but powerful influence in behalf of the Society

May the blessing of God rest upon your Society and upon your Country! May the Zeal of his people on both sides of the Atlantic greatly increase! May the flame of benevolence burn higher and brighter until it shall be seen every where; and its influence felt in every quarter of the world!

We are Dear Brethren yours in the fellowship of the Gospel.

For the Society of inquiry on Missions

George Backus Whiting

Corresponding Secretary.

D. T. Wood & W. Hervey Scribes

Path theo Sem^y at

Theological Seminary, Princeton, Jany 1827.

Dear Brethren,

At an early period after the reception of your fraternal letter, we acknowledge it with mingled pleasure and regret, & hasten to dissipate any unfavorable impressions, which our actual or apparent neglect, may have occasioned. What ever may have been the cause or occasion, of what is passed, it is now our anxiety to know what is present duty, & having known, to perform it, & this duty, we believe to be, what we at the same time consider our privilege, an immedi- reciprocation of your feelings, & an additional endeavour to strengthen the ties, that bind us to each other, to a common cause & common Saviour. We do rejoice in confidence, that our correspondence, is to be something more than the unmeaning and useless transmission of compliment, or the stale declaration of affected sentiment. We do feel thankful, that we are graciously constituted by the Great God of mind, in such a manner, that truth, when held up & viewed in unison, by minds of the same stamp, however thrown asunder by distance, or however distinguished by climate or Country will give rise to similar motions, & prompt to concentrated action, & thus neither ocean nor earth, the electricity of thought, nor prevent the effort, or energy of one from being the simultaneous effort & energy of thousands. Taking advantage of this constitution, we are stimulated to correspondence, by the Hope that we may thus give & recieve the impulse to vigorous action, which will, in turn be communicated to the thousands within the sphere of our influence, that thus new plans of action & higher aims of usefulness may be awakened in those who are hereafter to give color to the feelings & shape to the efforts, of future generations. viewed in this light, our correspondence becomes, becomes a means of doing good, too sacred to be prostituted to useless purposes, & too extensive in its possible influence & too fearful in its actual responsibility, to be lightly or insincerely handled. Brethren when we come to render an account for our capabilities, of affecting good, as well as for what we have actually accomplished, may it be found that we have, in this, as well as all things done what we could. Motives to a confidential & expanded corespondence, press upon us, whenever we examine

the subjects in its bearings upon the future interests of the Church & we may say without vanity, of the world. Whatever we may be individually, & personally, we cannot be insensible to the fact, that as the delighted Guardians of the minds, as well as the souls of men, as those who are to mould the mental character as well as watch for the everlasting interests of our fellow men, we have an importance & occupy a station, in these respects, absolutely peculiar, & therefore whatever effects us well in an infinitely increased degree, affect the church, of which, we are to be the guardians & the world which is always sensibly influenced by the vicissitudes of the Church. An impression of a vivid kind, many of which, might might result from a correspondence conducted on proper principles, received just in the important crisis, when the western of salvation set is deciding upon the field of labor, might, in the providence of God give permanent direction, to fluctuating feelings, & fix for life, the efforts & activities, to one scene of useful toil. Thus the simple statement of a fact, might be connected with the interests & destinies of unknown thousands & in the chain of moral causes & effects, which God sets in motion & directs to his own almighty purposes, may be the awakening of slumbering millions from the long lethargy of Spiritual death, - to life & energy on earth, & immortal life beyond the grave. It may be said, indeed these are splendid fancies - airy dreams. which may soothe, but will not stimulate & strengthen. So it might be said, of the feelings of Mills, who as he walked silently by the shore of the Ocean, & saw the Sun decline, thought, that the sum of his life should not, till his influence was felt, beyond the world of waters, in the darkness of Paganism. It does nerve to action, to feel that efforts, are not actually made, or thrown away, to waste - it does rouse the soul, to reflect that at any moment, a train may be started which may not cease to operate through the long succession of future ages, long after we have gone down to the dust & our names have been forgotten on earth. It is then that we live, when we are conscious of these things - and then we sleep when we move on them unconscious & unconcerned. Brethren, is it fanciful when we attempt mutual exhortation? As our professed object, in corresponding with our brethren, in different parts of our country & the world is to acquire & diffuse missionary information with reference to individual

duty, if we could be the means of bringing one spirit to devotedness till death to the missionary cause, would not more than all our splendid fancies be realized? Would not unknown millions throughout successive ages feel the influence of that devotedness, & might not ransomed millions, in the ages of eternity, look back from everlasting glory to that devotedness, as the cause, in the mysterious dispensations of Providence, of that glory? Brethren, these things may be. Some one of you might be induced to ponder the question more seriously than ever, can I do more than pray or hope for the rescuing of millions of the gentiles from the thick darkness of sin & misery, the prelude of everlasting blackness of darkness, & horrors of Eternal damnation? Some one of you might be induced to leave the hopes & prospects, long indulged, the affections long fostered, the joys of home & friends, of kindred & country, to find joys & affections & friends & Hopes & homes & country in a foreign land, where you would hear the light of life, the Gospel of the Saviour! We can hope & pray for these things.

As connected with this subject, we would also tenderly call your attention to the situation & prospects of that part of our country, to which you seem more particularly bound, by your local feelings & associations, & which justly looks to you for spiritual succour in future. The South needs awakening to its own interest & to the mighty plan now going forward for the renovation & salvation of our wretched world. We doubt not, that many feel & act as christians ought throughout that region of our land, but in the present state of christian Policy & the relation which america at present holds to the great design of forwarding the Millenial glory a new & universal spirit must go forth to mould the natural feeling, to stamp deeper the lines of christian devotedness, to embody & concentrate christian effort & to bring from our vast Southern population, the wealth & influence & talents, that it might throw into the cause of christianity, the design of renovating the World. To whom, Brethren, are we to look to accomplish this, but to those, who have breathed that air from infancy, whose tenderest associations & dearest sympathies, are found, blended with its history, & whose eyes have been by the grace of God, to see its moral Lethargy & the importance of its restoration. We look to you, & we rejoice with you, that the signs of the times are encouraging. The who stirreth up the people hath given tokens, not to be overlooked,

that he designs much for our southern churches. The spirit is abroad; the cloud breaks - we wait with anxiety & prayer the result. Oh throw yourselves forward as swords in the hand of the mighty one. Go forth & conquer. You are small, but remember every conquest will raise fresh champions, who, after filling your present places & enjoying your present priveledges, will go forth to the same scenes of conflict & will effect the same glorious results. We cordially hail your institution, as a most appropriate means of effecting this most desirable object & we pray for its prosperity. Without deciding the question of its expediency, under its present regulation, we can heartily wish that it may enjoy the smiles of the great head of the church; and we would most affectionately request, that the peculiar claims of the south may be weighed & your obligations, rising therefrom, fully valued.

We suppose our local news has generally found its way to you through the medium of our publications. We have the pleasure of hoping that something good is going on in our own village - We do not feel authorized to state particulars, yet we hope that a few are awakened among the careless & that the members of the church are considerably enlivened. Even this is much for our cold & formal village: which amidst so many priveliges, is very like to Capernaum, & Bethsaida & Chorazin of old. Our present number is 94. our professor of Bib Lit, is at present in ~~Germany~~ France & when last heard from, was in usual health: the college in this place numbers nearly 80 — Give us particulars of your college in your next.

We are, dear Brethren, yours in the bonds of the Gospel.

For the Society of Enquiry, D H Riddle
1st corresp'g Sec'y

Copied by ~~Peter Hofsinger~~.

Theo Sem. Princeton Jan 31 1827

A copy of a letter of the Missionary Mr Fisk respecting the State of Greece as a field for missionary labour was sent accompanied with some appropriate remarks to the Theo. Students of the Seminary at Auburn. By a vote of the Society permission was granted to the request of Mr Thomas L Janeway a pris-Sec. to transmit this letter without taking a copy of it as any delay was thought imexpedient. Thus no copy appears in this notice

T L Janeway. Apls Sec

To the "Society of Inquiry &c" in Theo Sem. Carlisle Pa

Theo. Sem. Princeton Jan'y 24th 1827.

Dear Brethren,

Your communication of Dec. 24th was duly received, and we beg leave to tender you our thanks for the interesting intelligence which it contains of the operations of that truly venerable body, to whose communion you are united.

We sincerely respond to your fervent wish, that nothing may occur to interrupt that flow of Christian feeling, which happily subsists between us — that our interchanged communications may still, as they obviously ought to do, stimulate each other to love and to good works. We rejoice at the ~~Missionary~~ movements in the Missionary field which your Church is making — for the plans which she has adopted for the advancement of Messiah's kingdom on earth, and especially in the grand and interesting department of domestic Missions. We rejoice at the progress of religion under any auspices whatever, and we conceive we have the more cause for joy, when we behold so large and so important a body as the German Reformed Church awaking from her lethargic stupor, and pressing forward to join the bands of Christians, who have preceded her in the cause of Missionary enterprise.

We hail with glad anticipation the happy effects on the German population by the dissemination of knowledge, and by the melioration of their moral condition. We beg leave to felicitate you on the prosperous condition & increasing welfare of your Institution. Believe us, Dear brethren, we regard you with deep interest— we hope that you may create an impulse which shall pervade a large portion of our country. Upon you too dear brethren in Christ Jesus, much depends— upon you is imposed the task of giving the tone which must pervade your Church. We mean no offence, nor do we arrogate to ourselves any magisterial authority— nor do we assume any supercilliousness in advising; but we desire in accordance with Apostolic exhortation, and in conformity with our design in conducting the correspondence, to excite to love; and to call from our post on Zion's walls to her Heralds in other quarters "Watchmen what of the night?" Your Church has slumbered long— and we feel that upon our Sister institution and valued Correspondent devolves the task of reformation. Oh then we exhort in the words of the Spirit "Be ye faithful unto death".

From ourselves, we regret we cannot report much cheering news— We can tell of no special effusion of God's Holy Spirit— no mighty shaking among these dry bones, and yet we have not been altogether forgotten. The state of things in Princeton is very interesting— of the actual state, prudence bids be silent. The cloud hangs over us, but yet we have not seen its opened bosom pouring out its reviving showers— In our Seminary, we humbly hope, there exists at present more Spirituality— a higher tone of piety, a holier devotedness to the cause of Jesus. We rejoice, to dear brethren, to inform you that a higher spirit of Missionary feeling has been excited.— The meetings of our Society have assumed an interest which we never knew before. And some few there are, whose attention has been forcibly arrested in the cause of foreign Missions— who long for honor of bearing the name of Jesus to the Gentiles.

The peculiar interests— the high raised prospects which foreign Missions are assuming— the opening doors to the nations— the whitening harvest— the Spirit of deep inquiry which prevails among the Heathen— the revolutions of Providence, in the revolutions of Empires press home upon our minds, and have kindled the spirit of inquiry as to personal duty.

The call is loud and urgent, but lately the lamented Hall, bequeathed us his last fervent pathetic appeal— and now the departed spirit of Fisk, before it rose to the Church triumphant, sent its supplicating voice for Clapsic, but now fallen— degraded— insulted Greece. —— From Jaffna too, the Mission to Ceylon have raised the Macedonian cry for help. And shall all these appeals be in vain— Shall we have no more examples of moral Martyrdom? Oh no, it cannot be— the captured fortress of the foe

shall never be surrendered — his banner shall never in the insolence of triumph float over the fallen Mission houses. Brethren pray ye to the Lord of the harvest. Oh for a high & holy missionary spirit to be kindled in your bosoms. We long to see the truly venerable ~~church~~ German Church. which which first threw off the shackels of spiritual slavery — and in her Luther claimed for man Heaven's richest, holiest gift —

We long to see her join the missionary legion which has undertaken the conquest of the Morab world. Oh! the 'signs of the times' are indeed portentous. The long sealed roll of Prophesy shall soon be unfolded to the wondering gaze of man. "Even so come Lord Jesus".

We beg an interest in your prayers, Brethren, that we may be excited to more devotedness in our glorious Master's service. —

Supplicating on your Society the holy influences of the Spirit, we subscribe ourselves Yours in the hallowed bonds of Christian fellowship.

In behalf of the Society of Enquiry

Thomas L. Janeway
Associate Secretary

(Copy) J. D. Hughes.

Theological Seminary Princeton Jan 20th 1827

The Society of Inquiry on Missions
To the Theological Missionary Association
of Glasgow College

Dear Brethren

We were gratified a few weeks since by the reception of a line from your Secretary accompanied by several copies of the last report of your Society. Your delay in answering your communication appears long but trust you will excuse us when we assure you that the sole reason of this delay is the long detention of your letter in New York. It did not reach us until December.

We cordially accept your proposal of a correspondence believing that an interchange of fraternal feeling & the communication of Religious Intelligence will conduce to our mutual encouragement and edification. We are fellow servants of one common Lord. we have one common faith & baptism one common object and aim. It is meet therefore that we should not only love one another but hold such intercourse with each other as will tend to quicken our zeal and to cheer our hearts.

We are the more ready to commence this correspondence because it accords perfectly with the design of our Association the great objects which we have in view are to collect information on the Moral and Religious state of the World to cultivate the Missionary Spirit and to enquire for our individual duty in the great work of evangelizing the Nations. Our Society has existed about 12 Years It was small at the Beginning but it now includes nearly all the members of our Seminary * It has sent forth Missionaries from time to time who have carried the News of Salvation to Ceylon to Burmah to the Isles of the Pacific to South America and to numerous tribes of Indians in our Western Forests Some of them rest from their Labors. some have by the Providence of God been recalled to their native land while others continue their useful employment of Preaching among the Gentiles the Riches of Jesus Christ. We have to regret that for several years past the degree of Missionary zeal and enterprize among us has been less than in former times. But we have great pleasure in saying that at present the case is otherwise. during the past year a deep and solemn interest in the cause of Missions has been excited in our Society an interest which we trust will not soon subside. Several who

* Our Theological Seminary has no connection with the College in this Town. All our Theological and Classical Schools are entirely distinct from each other

before thought but little on the subject have espoused an ardent desire to spend their lives in preaching the Gospel to the Heathen - We trust that some whose hearts are touched with pity for their perishing brethren in heathen lands will see long & forth from the midst of us as Missionaries and that among those who shall remain at home there will be found many a zealous advocate to plead before the churches the cause of Foreign Missions - In this connexion we rejoice to be able to state that an increasing interest in this beloved cause is manifested by the pious and the benevolent in our country - the amount of the receipts as well as of the expenditures of our Missionary Societies is every year increasing - The "United Foreign Miss. Society" which was formed by a union of the Presbyterian Congregational and Reformed Dutch Churches has recently been incorporated with the "American Board of Missions" which is strictly a national Society and has now become the common center of action and bond of Union to all the friends of Missions in the Principal Evangelical Denominations in the United States - This Society employs as Missionaries among the heathen about 200 adult persons including females - Of this number 40 are Preachers of the Gospel from this country and 6 are native preachers and interpreters who have been educated by our Missionaries - The number of organized churches at the various stations under the care of the Board is 25 - the number of Native members about 200 and number of Pupils in the Mission Schools 20. 000

Some of our most valued Missionaries have recently been called to their reward - others have been compelled to return to this country where they are employed as Agents of the Board and are with great success urging the claims of the Heathen nations upon the Sympathy and Aid of American Christians - The numerous agents who are serving the Society exert a salutary influence in all parts of the country - But the most important instrument employed in awakening the zeal & beneficence of the Religious community in America is the Periodical Press - within the last 15 Years the Number of our weekly religious newspapers has increased from one to nearly 100 - Thousands and tens of thousands of these winged Heralds are every week scattered over the country carrying tidings of the state of Religion and of evangelical operations at home and abroad - They bring before the People the Letters of our Missionaries with the Reports of our benevolent institutions - they echo the claims of a Perishing world and exert an incalculable influence in behalf of the Redeemers Cause - The grand enemy with which the Charitable Institutions of the day have to contend is Ignorance - Whenever the actual state of the world is presented to the pious mind & plans of operation are suggested the channel is opened in which the Spirit of benevolence which is in its nature active flows forth spontaneously - Experience has demonstrated that no Eloquence on this subject is so powerful as the simple statement of facts and no agents so successful as those who give the greatest amount of

Information on the real state of the Heathen - our Missionary Societies are therefore adopting what appears to be the only effectual means of arousing the churches to their Duty in regard to the heathen world - they are using their utmost endeavours to diffuse information of what is done of what is now doing and of what remains yet to be done. Since they have employed the aid of these weekly and monthly journals their operations have been ten fold more efficient than they had ever been before

- If our limits would allow us we would give you an account of the other Benevolent associations in this country - but we presume you have access to some of our periodical publications which contained detailed accounts of their operations - we remark in general that the various Societies among us whose object is the extension of the Redeemers Kingdom are every year augmenting their resources and enlarging their respective spheres of Influence. our home Missionary Societies in cooperation with societies for the Education of Pious young men for the Ministry are making great efforts to bring the blessings of the preached gospel to the Immense and increasing population in the Southern and Western parts of our country. our National tract and bible societies in addition to their exertions for the destitute in our own land are now endeavouring to furnish a supply of Bibles and tracts for South America where thousands are not only willing to read but eager to obtain the Scriptures and other religious Books -

- our Philanthropic ~~and~~ citizens have long lamented the condition of our slave population. We are happy in saying that the Moral Sense of the Nation is now awaking to this subject and that public opinion especially in the slave - holding states is undergoing a salutary change - The American Colinization Society is growing in popularity and Importance every day - Anti-slavery Societies are rising up in almost every part of the Southern States - the subject is engaging the attention of our National and State Legislatures and we hope soon to see the whole nation uniting its efforts to remove this portentous evil from among us -

- The past year has been distinguished above any former period by the out-pouring of the holy Spirit and the Revival of Religion in our churches - Hundreds of Towns and villages have enjoyed the special visitations of the Divine Spirit - and it is estimated that not far from 20.000 persons have given evidence of saving conversion and been added to the churches during the year - there is at the present time a very unusual attention to Religion in several of our large towns - This is the case in Richmond. Virginia - in several towns in Georgia in Albany (N. Y) and especially in Boston the strong hold of Unitarianism - The demonstration of the

Spirit which is manifested in these Revivals of Religion proves a more effectual check to the progress of the Unitarian heresy than all the logic and Eloquence which mans wisdom teaches - we mention these things. Christian Brethren not to boast of them but that the grace of God may be magnified. He has done great things for us during the past year and we hope you will unite with us in praising his name for them -

We shall rejoice to hear from you and to receive from time to time such accounts of the state of Religion in your country and of whatever relates to the Kingdom of our common Lord as you may deem interesting. And we trust that our correspondence under the Blessing of God will mutually cheer and animate our hearts -

- Praying that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ may be with you and that his spirit may be poured out upon your country. we are dear Brethren in the fellowship of the Gospel. very affectionately Yours'

(for the Society on Inquiry on Missions)

Geo. B. Whiting
Corresponding Secretary

John Hunter Jun (Copyist)

Princeton March 1827

To the Brethren composing the Theological Seminary of the Evangelical Lutheran church at Gettysburgh Pa.

Dear Brethren

Some time since, the Society of Enquiry belonging to this Seminary, passed a resolution, for commencing a correspondence with you, with the view and the hope of exciting to enquiry on the subject of missions & to the establishment, in your Infant & Interesting Institution - of a Society like our own, devoted to the investigation, transmission & cherishing of Missionary Information. This resolution, owing to some circumstances, not in the control of the Organs of the Society, has been until this time unaccomplished, & is now attempted with the humble hope that it may be beneficial to both the parties concerned. We feel in opening this correspondence, animated by the Spirit so characteristic of the age in which we live, & so congenial to that religion, we mutually profess, & so prophetic of the happier Era, of the church militant - the Spirit of union in Essentials - of charity in non-essentials - of forbearance in every thing. In one thing we are agreed - that we love the cause of a crucified Savior, & mourn that its influence is yet so partial & that efforts for its universal diffusion, till all nations & Kindreds & tongues & people are brought to acknowledge him as Lord should be more prayerfully & concentratedly made by those who call him Master. In was in the view of the causes of this partial spreads of Divine Truth & to ascertain the means of remedying it, & to obtain information in regard to the particular field of labor, to which we ought to direct our eyes & hearts that our Society was

first established, many years since & for these purposes
been continued & to recommend the adoption of a similar
plan in the beginning of your existence as a school of
the Prophets, is one of the principal objects contemplated
by our introductory letter, with the request that you in
that capacity, consider yourselves as our correspondents

Our association comprehends at present nearly all
the members of this Seminary, & its monthly meetings
are among the most interesting & animating seasons
that are witnessed within our walls. Our correspondence
is extensive & in general very satisfactory. This correspondence, which is among the most efficient means of
accomplishing the objects of our association, is conducted
by six secretaries. Three of these, styled the 1st corresponding Secretary & first & second associate Secretaries conduct
the correspondence with the different institutions of a
similar kind throughout the United States & endeavor
to cultivate a spirit of fraternal feeling & solicit information of a Social casual or general kind, conducive to the general object of the Institution. This, if
it effect no higher purpose, will create a liberality
of sentiment an union of interest & concentration of
feeling, which will contribute in no small degree to
the general interests of Evangelical Religion in our
beloved Country. The business of the third corresponding Secretary, is to correspond with the Theological
Seminaries &c. in Great Britian & Ireland & on the continent of Europe & to transmit & elicit information
tending to strengthen the faith or stimulate the exertions
of the future ministers of Jesus Christ, in these different
parts of his vineyards.

The second corresponding Secretary, manages the correspondence with the Missionary Stations among the aborig

ines of our country & with South America & the fourth Corresponding Secretary is devoted to the Missionary interests of Asia & Africa. From all these we receive at different times interesting intelligence from different parts of the world, while by them we communicate our feelings & views & sentiments & thus strive to spread & widen & deepen the interest & information connected with the onward march of the church of God, & the progress of the glorious days of the people & cause of God.

The domestic concerns of the Society are managed by a President chosen from the first class Secretary of Records, Treasurer & several Committees. An Essay & Oration are delivered by two members of the Society connected with Missionary proceedings at the last of every Session.

From this vantage ground we often cast our eyes over the dark portions of our wretched world, & while we feel that they are crowded with Immortal Souls & see no ray yet reaches them from the risen Sun of gospel glory, our hearts hail with delight any measures that will ultimately lend to their benefit & we rejoice that one & another institution is rising in our Country from which we may rationally expect that some will go forth, to scatter away the darkness of Paganism & preach the cross where the name of Jesus was never before known.

In the present period of the world & the state of the church we feel it peculiarly needful as well as delightful that the watchmen on the walls of Zion should see eye to eye & that thro all her bulwarks there should be simultaneously heard the enspiriting shout "Onward" &

when in any portions of the fields, conquest crowns the heroes, who fight against the powers and principalities of darkness, there should be spread thro' every other division of armies of the Lord of Hosts, the cry of "victory" to gladden & stimulate. Our interest in a part should not prevent our expanded sympathies in the whole. It is the one cause, of our one God. It is the moral & mental regeneration of a world, & it is the eager & constant view of this grand scheme, that will swell the christian soldier's bosom, to the proper pitch of moral sublimity of resolutions, & prompt to systematic & consistent actions, proportioned to the glorious ends, to be promoted & dim his eye to the little Shibboleths of a Party or the petty distinctions of a name. Such results, we trust will follow our correspondence & we venture to indulge the confidence that the cause of genuine religion in our beloved Country, will be greatly promoted, by elevated & expanded views, of our duties to the world. When we think that our hemisphere is to be the Beacon lights of the nations of the Earth, as that we have already been placed as the exemplar for Kingdoms to learn by, even in view of our duty & privilege to the world, we will be vigorous & anxious, in our efforts to raise America, to the heghest point of moral grandeur & make her the mould for the religious character, as she is the model of the Political greatness of the World!

One item generally in our correspondence, is local religious intelligence. We shall always be happy to be informed of the particular situations of the churches in your vicinity & of your connexion generally. We

Should be glad to hear of the affairs of your Missionary Societies - your Education Societies & all the Streams into which Lutheran benevolence & Charity are directed & what ends they are effecting. We shall be glad to hear of peculiar religious feeling & activity, wherever they may exist - we shall be glad to hear of the progress of Evangelical truth & the destruction of cold & formal & inefficient dogmas. We hope much from your Seminary in the cause of Lutheranism, of a better Stamp, than that which unfortunately bears its name without its nature, in the birth place of your reverend Father - the Semi-Apostolic Luther. Germany the Mother needs the prayers of America, the daughter, & will enjoy them. A Brighter day is dawning.

God grant it may be the day of truth & order. We are here in Brinton, indulging the trembling hope of good things for our long barren line, & in Trenton we hope God is blessing his people with salvation.

Commending you to God & his grace, we subscribe Ourselves your Brethren in Christ.

In behalf of the Society of Enquiry on Missions

D. H. Riddle 1st Corresp & Secr

Copied By James M. Hunting

To the "Society of Enquiry &c. in the The. Sem.y Prince Edward. Virginia —

Dear Brethren —

We take pleasure in answering your prompt letter of February last & mention in the commencement, that the duties devolving on the Secretaryship, to which our domestic correspondence is committed, render it impossible for us always to imitate the promptitude with which our last was noticed. Tho' a very interesting portion of our correspondence, it is from the nature of the case, more extended & more difficult than the rest, containing a longer list of correspondents, & demanding a peculiar kind of attention. The portions of our country in which our sister institutions are situated being seldom very different in their general complexion & being more frequently possessed of ample sources of information, in regard to points of local interest — it becomes necessary that the materials of our correspondence, in order to be interesting, should be something else than a detail of facts, & should be less frequent than would otherwise seem advisable. Hence, we have generally found it more profitable, in our communications, to wake up our own minds, & endeavour to wake up the attention and interests of our brethren whom we address, by some useful sentiments arising out of our peculiar circumstances & our prevailing train of thoughts & connected with the prosperity of that Church to which we are consecrated, & the glory of that Saviour — whom we call our Lord — In doing this, we are animated by the considerations which we before presented & which you, so affectionately respond. If one useful thought & one new spring to activity be awakened in the minds of those, on whose activity & exertions so much depends, our correspondence will not be entirely in vain — & if the affectionate reciprocation of feeling between us, produces more congeniality of

between the regions of our common country, which we respectfully inhabit, there will always be a motive strong enough to continue this reciprocation & we shall feel ourselves fulfilling in an eminent degree the command of the apostle - so often repeated - "that we should be of one mind" while we endeavour to the ties that bind the ministers of the North & South together, in our common & glorious Cause. We have awakened by this last allusion to North & South, a painful train of thought in our own minds, which strongly impresses them when we perused the latter part of your letter. We regret that there is ground in the dissimilarity of sentiment & circumstance for this distinction. We would regret still more that any circumstances should render the grounds of this distinction more obvious. A common country - a common cause - a common hope & a common Heaven - might destroy at least to the christians eye, minor peculiarities. But we do sincerely feel that the most delicate & dangerous point, in the interests of america as a nation, are the very grounds of this distinction which we so sincerely deplore. While therefore, our duty calls us more particularly to the interests of a kingdom which is not of this world, yet as the interests of Christs kingdom are intimately connected & strongly influenced by the circumstances of the nation where it is placed, we know of nothing of more vital interest to two Institutions situated as ours - than mutual investigation on this point - & mutual endeavours to obviate the dangers arising from it. It is false sensibility - that shrinks from a fearful truth least it should awaken momentary pain, when investigation might lead to discovery & discovery lead to removal. It is well to know definitely, our duty in regard to every course of conduct - & in regard to the existence of Slavery in our land - confessedly our curse - it is

surely well, that the future ministers of religion should have definite & proper ideas. All of us have duties entailed upon us by our forefathers & frequently entailed by ~~our forefathers~~ the errors & follies of our forefathers, but no less duties because our agency was not concerned in creating them. The removal of slavery from our land involves a class of duties most delicate - most difficult most dangerous; but yet most peremptory & positive. In these duties Christians, & especially Christian ministers, share most largely & of course - most especially need accurate information. We cannot help thinking - therefore, that, animated by a common desire to attain a common end, it might be useful to consult together confidentially, on these duties that devolve on us, in relation to the existence & removal of slavery. From you, we may expect much since your minds have been mournfully & frequently turned to the subject it has, doubtless entered into calculations of future labour for the general good of mankind. We may hereafter communicate our own views & request your correction or your sanction - as they may seem to you to deserve the one or the other. In the mean while, we feel no hesitation, in joining in the sentiments you convey, in relation to the ultimate direction of all these things, by a wise holy & sometimes mysterious Providence, in the right way. We have no hesitation, amidst the darkest prospects, in feeling that all the events of this world - all the agitations of publick feeling - all the prejudices & peculiarity of sectarian interest - & all the constructed policy of short-sighted mortals, will conduce in the end, to the accomplishment of Gods infinitely wise designs. We do not fear for the result - tho' we may sometimes be ignorant & anxious about the process. Expanded - & comprehensive views of Gods

government. will ever drive away the despondancy which partial views may create - & present mystery may strengthen. We would derive from such reflections - not the languid acquiescence of a Mohamedan belief, but the energetick cooperation of faith. From the perswasion that our work is not in vain in the Lord. we would be urged to be steadfast - immoveable - always abounding in the work of the Lord. From an undoubted assurance that in regard to every thing - the will of God must be performed, we would gather energy in pursuing that path which, we believe, his will & his Providence point out. His church shall be built on the ruins of all worldly greatness & every Political movement on this little drama of a world - has heretofore conduced & will hereafter conduce however indirectly & strangely, to its extension & completion. The fall & rise of the successive dynasties of the four kingdoms of antiquity, & the meteors of war that successively blazed over & terrified the world, producing amidst their convulsions new & mighty empires - seemed to human calculation. little adapted to forward the kingdom of him, whose right it is to reign. The conquests of Roman armies - tide the Roman eagle waved in triumph over the known world, seemed to human eyes, but little conducive to the cause of him who was to be the Prince & Author of peace to the world. Yet there were the developements of that Providence, which is cloathed in mystery to mortals in its progress - tho' plain to a child in its consummation. There were Gods methods of pursuing his own purposes. Parts of the picture seem to want the impress of Deity - the whole presents him in more awful & magnificent glory - as the God of nations. We feel therefore assured, that the same will be the case hereafter. All the convulsions & changes of our Political world - will forward the purposes of Jehovah, however strange & unintelligible to man. The pigmy Politicians

of our nation & of our world, may not know - & their visions long straitened to a narrower scheme may not know comprehend - the connection & adaptation of all inferior plans, to the glorious plan of Infinite wisdom - & they may labour for the accomplishment of their favourite measures with ardor & enthusiasm but still - like the Assyrian - "they mean not so" Heaven's eternal purpose is gradually & surely - even by their instrumentality - moving onward to its consummation. Distant nations may read the history of our times & see their adaptation & we read the history of nations gone by. If then - while we look on opening life - & coming told & promised glory - we could be assured that we are the honoured instruments of a scheme - hidden in the mysterious oracles of God & to be developed in the future history of our world - & if we are faithful - the heirs of a crown & kingdom prepared before the dynasties of this world began to be, & continuing - when the crowns & kingdoms of this world shall have faded forever away, we can not but go forward with an energy & enthusiasm - which earthly motives never could inspire, & labour till we die - with a fervency which hopes of earthly glory never could sustain. This is the holy ambition which a minister in the 19th century & especially an American minister may cherish. We love our country because it is our home & the home of our forefathers, the land where the blood of our fathers was offered on the altar of Liberty - & where the Pilgrim found a peaceful asylum - when driven by persecution from his native country - but we love our country still more - when we dwell on her future glory, when connected with the advancement of the Redeemer's ~~glory~~ kingdom. Westward, the star of hope for a sinking world has ever travelled, since Eden was forsaken by our unhappy parents - & west

ward it may travel, till it reaches the Western most verge & then may fling back its rays on the world it has deserted. America is the land of hope to the world we inhabit, & it is to be the beacon of light in the march of an awakening world - in Intellect & Religion. These are noble aims & expanded efforts which the developing greatness of our country, as it streaches westward & Southward, with a yearly accumulating tide of population create & justify. Giants in Influence & Zeal & prayer, will be needed to counteract the tendency of man, unrestrained by religious motives to sink to brutality amidst the populous districts of our new territories. Many a Paul may there go forth & boast that he has not built on another mans foundations. Many new centres of moral influence may there be established - whose diverging rays would streach forth from generation to generation. I thus simply invite you to this train of thought. It is too extensive to be persued in detail - it is too grand to be dwelt on without enthusiasm. It is not all fancy. Hints may be traced in the book of Prophecy - plain intimations may be gathered from the book of Providence, to give solidity to these hopes. No man can work without all the moral energy he might who neglects or despises them.

The news of a local nature which we have to present is not of the most animating character. Our own little village - which we had trusted, was about to be abundantly blessed of God, does not at present exhibit promising appearances. Additions have been made to the Church in consequence of the excitement lately experienced, but there is nothing Specially interesting now in the congregation. The hope we can say however - that throughout the region in which we are situated there does appear to be a stirring like the shaking of the trees before the storm. More attention is converted

persons - more prayer among the pious - more of the spirit of genuine christianity, exhibited by some in many of the adjacent congregations. The cities adjacent - New York & Phil.a appear more interesting at present than for some time past. The spirit of the North has extended to us we trust - for good.

We commend you & your Sem.y into the hands of our common Lord - & rejoice that we have this precious privilige. May he guide all its interests - & make it abundantly useful to his Church.

In the bonds of the Gospel. yours - affectionately. (For the Soc: Eng.d)

D. H. Riddle
1.st Cor. Sec.y

May 1.st 1827

The Sem.y Princeton ——

John R. Hutchison transcripsit

Princeton Theological Seminary May 1st 1827

Corresponding Secretary of the Society of Inquiry &c
Theological Seminary Auburn N.Y.

Dear Brethren

The Multiform character of our correspondence makes it necessary for us to commence most of our communications with an apology for unavoidable delay and an enumeration of preventing circumstances — but in reliance upon your generosity for excusing our apparent remissness, we gladly omit both, and enter upon the holy Spirit stirring theme to which our communications have been consecrated — the cause of Zion the cause of Missions — Brethren we feel convinced, and your letter tended to fasten more firmly upon our minds, the conviction, that America is waking from her slumbers. and is girding for the conflict — a Missionary spirit has been excited — a tone has been raised which is pervading our country. glorious things are doing for thee O Zion, our grateful hearts exclaim — But great as we hope this Missionary excitement is, high as is the tone of Missions — Oh our hearts are faint within us, when we see the energies of a giant exerted only in a childs performance — when we see these energies mighty as they would be in the hand of God, undirected, unexcited — the world is yet unconquered — one paltry fortress and another have been wrested from the grasp of Satan — an impression has been made — but he is still unsubdued — we look around us, we see the mournful picture which the faithful pencil of Lamented Hall sketched — we see its blackness we heard too the appeal which the brethren of Jaffna made us from their distant post — we could have wept over the fallen glories of degraded Greece which the pen of our Sainted brother Fisk dictated — oh beloved brethren, what shall be done for a world lying in darkness — for 600 - 000 - 000 who are floating down the irresistable current of eternal woe? — But what shall we do? are we to be idle spectators of such tremendous concussions which are about to shake the world — be we no part assigned in the drama to be acted on the theatre of the universe — are questions which have presented themselves with a solemn force — Yes we, humble and obscure as we may be, we have a mighty part in these mighty movements — We hope our Missionary spirit which we feared had begun to ebb, has been again excited — we have been tenderly addressed on this solemn theme by the dispensations of providence — after receiving from abroad the appeals of Missionaries, which cannot but thrill our souls, with unfelt emotions — after having our minds directed to this subject with unusual power — and had been precipitated to muse upon the passing events in the kingdom of Messiah upon Earth, we were again presented with the subject by the visits of the agents of the American Board to our town and institution, a few weeks since — Mr Stewart himself a Moral Martyr in the cause — Mr Evarts Corresponding Secretary and brother Kirk — with the eloquence of Christians they plead and supplicated for a perishing world — they pointed to the isles of the great Pacific — they asked in tones of liveliest feeling — who will go from Princeton? some voices have answered we will go — with the precise number who will consecrate their lives to the self-devotedness of Missionary Enterprise, we are unacquainted — Many we hope, are solemnly agitating the question of personal duty. Every day more deeply impresses us, with the solemn fact, that the heat and toil of the battle must fall on the American Churches — England has done nobly and we love her example — but still the ranks must be filled from the Youth of America. The mighty example which she has displayed in the political world has made her the watchword of freedom — the model of imitation in all things, and the beam of glad tidings will be more readily received from the patern — the defender — the champion of all that is dear to the soul of man

Oh Brethren is this a fast — and dare we then presume with a "voluntary humility" so misnamed for cowardice and inglorious love of ease, that we have no part in these mighty movements — Oh then let us stimulate and encourage each other — To those of your number who in the spirit of primitive consecration have offered their services in the field of glorious war — we say God speed — we hail them as blessed of the Lord, we ask their prayers that their mantles may fall upon you and us who are left behind — yes, whether we be drafted for the outposts or remain in garrison at home — let us feel that a Missionary Zeal, is the spirit of a Minister of the Gospel — that the same holy commission which supported Paul among the Gentiles, bears aloft the Modern Missionary, is directed to him who directs at home the energies of the church, and maintains possession of the ground which has been already wrested from the foe — Oh Brethren, we should mingle our prayers before the Throne, supplicating the spirit of the primitive Missionary the spirit of Christ — the earliest and most glorious Missionary — We should have mentioned that one cause which will probably operate powerfully to excite a Missionary spirit in our bosoms, is the removal of the monthly concert to the Seminary on a new and more befitting plan — did time and space permit, we should indulge ourselves, and trespass on your patience, by describing the plan of operation but we forbear —

Yours in the fellowship of Jesus

Thomas L Janeway agt &c —

W M Creary, Copyist

Theological Seminary Princeton May 1st 1827

Corresponding Secretary of the Society of Inquiry
in the Theological Seminary at Andover. Mass.

Dear Brethren

We hardly need tell you that our hearts were refresh=ed by your last affectionate communication— we felt the vibrations of the chord which you touched— our sympathies were excited by the tender appeal made to them— and our souls responded to the endearing appellation of Brethren, Yes we are Brethren— of the same blessed family— united to one another by the same heavenly bond which bind us to our covenant God, tending to the same blissful home, and to be employed for ever in the same holy, glorious services in the Church above— Let us then anticipate that time, when the sheep shall be gathered to one heavenly fold— let us catch something of that fellowship which the Saints in glory feel, and ever conduct our correspondence in such a free, unreserved christian spirit which shall tend to unite our hearts and serve to promote the design of our interchanged com=munications— We would ever, dear Brethren, remember to apportion a large part of our letters to that holy, inspiring theme for whose sake we have opened our correspondence— a theme in itself inexhaustable— a theme to which the harp of prophecy has been often strung— on which the faith of the pious in every age has rested— the grand, the imposing subject of Foreign Missions. Oh how refreshing it was to us, to hear that so many of your number will probably in the spirit of primitive consecration, devote themselves to this holy, sacred employment— Andover has indeed taken the lead— we love her example— tis noble— tis christian— May the mantles of Parsons— of Fisk— of Newell— of Hall, fall upon their successors, may the cry for labourers which sounded to them more inviting than the allureing ease of home, and the quiet repose of their native land, induce many more of your number to tread in their steps— yes brethren have any of us that missionary zeal, that apostolic devotedness to meet the spirit of the age. What proportion does the number who on the sublime embassy of love and mercy have left our American shores, bear to the 600.000.000. of wretched beings who never heard of that Jesus, who left the joys of heaven on a mission of love— like a few stars which twinkled amid the darkness of heathenism— Brethren we must awake— Oh we too of Princeton must awake— the signs of the times are eventful— they are portentous— the roll of prophecy is opening fast— the day is coming and when we hear of some wonderous event, when we are made to hear of the convulsions both political and moral which are shaking the oriental world— we fancy we see the beams of the sun shooting from behind the clouds of paganism— But still the mournful

cry tells us of a world lying in wickedness — we cannot give utterance to our feelings — we are oppressed with the fearful responsibilities which have devolved upon us — let us urge each other onward — let us make our call reverberate from Seminary to Seminary — from Post to post, till the very reiteration shall wake attention. With regard to our institution, the providences of God in this respect have been peculiarly solemn — we heard the last appeal of Hall — it was followed by the news of his unexpected death — Fisk too, just before he rose to the Jerusalem above, sent us his supplicating voice in behalf of degraded Greece — and within a few weeks we have had our attention arested by the agents of the "American Board" — Mr Stewart from Sandwich isles — Mr Evarts and brother Kirk — we hope all these appeals have not been in vain — we hope that Princeton too, shall join the Missionary Band — there are some who pant for the glorious title of Missionary of the Cross — who feel their souls inspired by the example of Teigenbalg and Sevart and Martyn — It matters but little where we pass our transient life, at home or abroad — if we be inspired by a Missionary spirit — for the spirit of the Missionary is the spirit of Christ — Lets us then dare to face the question, and consulting the leadings of Providence, and the declarations of the spirits influences — follow wherever duty calls and in reliance on the promised aid of Jesus, in the spirit of primitive faith, go and labour and die — With respect to news of a local nature we regret, we cannot give much cheering intelligence — the work of Grace here which we watched with such interest, we fear has subsided in the neighbouring congregations, there is much excitement in Trenton, the churches have been much refreshed. You have heard probably of the powerful operations of the spirit in the bounds of the New Castle Presbytery — in Wilmington Del. and in Philadelphia Presbytery there is a mighty shaking — in Deofield in N.J. there is a powerful work — and the city of Philadelphia, so long parched and dry and desolate the spirit has come in answer to prayer — in Dr Janeways Church there are 30 or 40 anxious sinners, and in Dr Skinners we have just heard, that 50 or 60 are asking what they must do to be saved — in Dr Clys and Mr Kennedys and in Mr Ramsey's the spirit is moving, to what extent we are unprepared to say — In two of the Baptist churches so long forsaken and desolate and barren, sinners are seeking Jesus, among the female convicts in the States Prison in that city, we have heard there is a work of the holy Ghost — we would we could enter more into detail, and more circumstantially relate much of this heart reviving news — there is a rolling southward dear Brethren of the tide of revivals — in Baltimore — Washington — Richmond, and the southern cities, there is more or less excitement — oh how joyful — our land we hope will soon be visited from north to south — Pray ye the Lord of the harvest — pray for us —

J B M Creary. Copyist.

Yours in Christ — Horace L Janeway Jr Sec.

To Bombay —

Princeton N. J. Th. Sem. April 2 182

Dear Brethren

In addressing you at this time we do it with varied & mingled emotions. The mournful recollection urges itself upon us that one of your number who shared in the feelings wh. our last communication awakened is now no more! We did not till recently receive the letter addressed to us by the lamented Fisk shortly before his departure. The delay we suppose was occasioned by the capture of the vessel in wh. it was sent & the detention of all its papers till they were subjected to an examination. That hand however wh. in its movements in the system of the universe directs even the fall of a Sparrow has caused this farewell appeal of your beloved Brother at length to reach us We hope that its arrival has not been in vain, coming as it did in quick succession to one of a similar kind from the Rev Gordon Hall who soon after it was penned retired from his watch-tower to rest in Glory The providence of God to us as a Society within the past year speaks a language of no doubtful or equivocal import

We have long been addressed by those ordinary means wh. usually produce conviction of duty & lead to its performance. But within the last year the eloquence and solemnities of Death have mingled with almost every appeal to our sympathies in behalf of the Heathen It is just twelve months since the beloved & amiable Chew a convert of the Aborigines of our Country of whom you may have heard came to this place to leave personally his dying testimony in favour of missions. Many of us remember that the last tears of mortal sorrow that dimmed his eye & moistened his cheek in Death were those he shed for his brethren yet in Pagan darkness His dust rests in hope in our church yard whilst his tomb remains a silent yet affecting memento of the triumphs of the Gospel in him whose ashes it encloses & of our obligations to extend the blessings of that Gospel to others His dying testimony was soon backed by the dying

eloquence of a Hall & a Fisk whose Sepulchres are reared on foreign shores to beckon us thither to share in their toils & triumphs & ultimate Glory These things if we mistake not the laws of human feelings are the last resort as far as natural instrumentality is concerned to awaken our sensibilities to the subject of Missions We hope that they will not fail of their appropriate effect. We trust that they have already touched some chords of responsive sympathy that will never cease to vibrate till the heart that contains them shall be stilled in death We are sorry however to say that we cannot yet name to you the particular individuals of our number who had avowed it as his determination to live & to die preaching Christ to the Heathen Still the subject of Missions has recently excited a more general & deep-felt interest in this Seminary than at any former period We feel anxious dear Brethren to lay hold of this or any other fact in the moral history of our country at present which may console or encourage you amidst the toil & trial and privation of Missionary life Though we are not yet prepared to reinforce your number still our hearts do tenderly sympathise with you & we anticipate the day as not far distant when the labourers in Gods harvest shall no longer toil single handed and alone Public opinion in this country is now undergoing a mighty transformation in favour of the Missionary cause The annual multiplication of religious periodicals & their extensive circulation are exerting a silent but powerful influence on the public mind Plans for the increase & perpetuity of Missionary funds are now matured & brought into action more definite & effectual than any hitherto adopted Direct & open hostility is now unpopular Prejudices are disarmed & the doubts & fears of cautious & timid Christians are removed.. And we hope that you will rejoice with us & give God thanks on our behalf for these seasons of refreshing from his presence with wh. he has lately visited various parts of our country Revivals have been multiplied

- from North to South & the Glory of the Lord is arising on his American Zion & giveing the promise of a bright & happy day in her spiritual history Amongst the thousands of youth who have in these revivals been made alive to God may we not expect that future years will disclose another Fisk and another Hall to comfort us & you for those whose loss we now deplore Yes Brethren there is much in the religious aspect of our country that is omineous of good to the holy cause of Missions The Southern parts have shared in these effusions of the Spirit and we hope soon to see the phisical and moral resources of this part of our population brought to bear more directly on the interests of religion The cloudy pillar that is leading forward the American Church is assuming brighter hues of glory & is moving on in more high & solemn Majesty We mention these things and we might mention many more such as the rise of new Theological Seminaries and the increased numbers of their students and the rising standard of sacred litterature - to encourage your hearts & to show that the cause in wh. you are engaged must ultimately triumph But you have a more sure word of prophecy & promise for your consolation You have the declaration of your risen Lord You have the "hundred fold more in this life" whatever that may mean Indeed we sometime wish ourselves with you that we might know what that "secret of the Lord is" wh is with his Missionary servants Besides the immediate support wh your sympathising Master affords you. Your field of labour is connected with associations the most hallowed that ever attached to any spot of earth or that ever influenced the human mind It is the same land into wh. Abraham by divine command came as a pilgrim nearly forty centuries since & came in reference to the interests of that Church wh it is now your object to re establish here It is the same land whose hills & valleys were once vocal with Davids lyre The land from wh Elijah's Car arose to Heaven The land where Isaiah wrapt in prophetic vision

looked down the vista of time to your day - a land filled with the tombs of the mighty dead of other years A land whose every mountain & cave and river is consecrated by the remembrance of some divine interposition in favour of its former inhabitants and above all it is the land of Gethsemene & Calvary the scene of the sublime & melancholy glories of the Cross!! - It may be fancy but we think were we there we should be thrilled with unearthly emotions whilst we trode the earth once moistened by the blood, and breathed the atmosphere once agitated by the groans of a dying Saviour And is it presumption to suppose that the blessed Jesus still remembers with peculiar interest the land of his pilgrimage and mortal sorrow and that he looks with an eye of peculiar regard upon you are literally & we hope spiritually walking in his steps! Is it too fanciful to think those Angels who were so familiar with that plain when the Son of God sojourned there still hallows its memory as the scene of those wonders into wh. they desire to look - and that their most happy and willing visitations to Earth are those wh. they make to minister to you the disciples of that Lord & in the same Land where they ministered to him eighteen Centuries since! Courage then ye "good Soldiers of Jesus Christ" The same choir that once filled the midnight air of Bethlehems Plain with their music, still hover nigh & wait to tune their harps anew at every triumph of the Cross achieved by your instrumentality. - Those spirits of might that strengthened Jesus in the agonies of the garden shall support your fainting hearts & shield your heads from many an invisible shaft in the day of mortal conflict
And in those moments of depression wh. are incident to man - & wh. the toil and privation of the Missionary's warfare render doubly afflicting to human frailty turn your eye towards mount Olivet and think of Him who ascended from its summit in triumph and glory to the right hand of God to prepare a place for your reception Think how soon your liberated spirits will take their flight from the same land to inherit the eternal blessedness of his kingdom Gird yourselves

Colored Brethren anew for the conflict In a little while you shall be removed from the stormy elements of war— shall unbind your helmet and wipe the sweat from your brow and bathe your wearied limbs in the peaceful waters of immortality

In behalf of the Society of Inquiry on Missions
I am dear Brethren Yours &c S L Carroll
4th Cor Secretary

Soc'y of Enquiry on Missions &c Theo. Sem.
Princeton August 1st 1827—

Dear Brethren

Circumstances sometimes unavoidably prevent a ready interchange of communications on our part Such they have been since the arrival of yours of April— Any further apology for our delay we trust you will not consider necessary—

The regard for our spiritual welfare, & concern for our best interests, and for those around us, which your last communication manifested, we trust arose from those views of things temporal & eternal, which Christians only can take. What are the relations of time compared with those of eternity! What the honours and wealth of this world compared with the honour which cometh from God, and the true riches where with Christ has blessed us!— When we consider ourselves as responsible beings, and know that in a few short years our spirits must enter upon a new scene of action, we cannot fail to realize something of our situation. "Here we must justly reason "here we were not placed to gratify ourselves, to live for our benefit. Have we not important duties to perform? Do not our fellow men claim our sympathies? are we enlightened, and they blind? Have we been brought to the Knowledge of the truth as it is in Christ Jesus & shall we make no efforts to spread the knowledge of his death"?— Somewhat in this strain perhaps, Christian Brethren we reasoned when we first looked forward to the office of the Ministry, and in view of the pitiable condition of our fellow immortals enquire Lord what wilt thou have us to do. Such or similar will be the feelings of each one of us when we look around us upon

the many millions yet to be enlightened & renewed. How large the field! How white the harvest! alas! the labourers are few - Have we as one hundred young men preparing themselves for the work. There perhaps twice as many, and again through our widely extended country, groups of a few zealous souls. - But when all these shall have been added to the number already entered upon the field, how inadequate are they all to the wants of the people. And if this is the result of our view when alone our country is considered have we not reason to lament over our fallen race. Ethiopia stretches forth her hands, Africa with her sable sons - Asia with her hundred kingdoms and the Isles of the sea - and where shall we go? Europe too is only partially enlightened, and America alone would swallow up almost unfelt, the whole of our labours To all who are preparing for usefulness, it is a subject of anxious enquiry - where shall we labour? At this time the situation of such is peculiarly trying. - Never was the cry for ministerial help louder or more importunate. The piercing cry of Spiritual want sounds in our ears from every quarter. The people are beginning to feel their situation, and from our western & southern settlements the demand is great. We feel Brethren or ought to feel that our situation is that of gospel soldiers, ready to go where ever our superiors appoint us. So far from considering this a cross we should look upon it as a privilege. To preach the unsearchable riches of Christ where he is not known.
Our Western states, Brethren, particularly demand our attention, Now is the time when they must receive the gospel. Moral darkness is fast gathering over them, and unless something is speedily done to disperse it, it may hold its dominion forever - The awful prelude to interminable death. Brethren, we must arise. No longer let us wait for example, let us set it - no longer let us seek our own ease, let us deny it - No longer let us look on the distressing scene presented to us every where in the west & south and turn away with closed hearts. We hope, Brethren, we do not make the appeal to you while we fail not to pace

ourselves. Nay there are some among us whose anxious desire it is to preach the gospel afar off. They wait for the day when God shall sound the trumpet and summons them to his help. Soon we hope to enter the field, to wage in active warfare, to endure the heat of the day — May the Lord hasten it in his own time and give us success.

We have little that is interesting to communicate to you at present. This hill of Zion is indeed thirsty. The summers drought seems to settle upon ~~them~~ it; The Lord seems to have a controversy with us. We are not however without our encouragement, for occasionally we are visited by his grace.

One circumstance however should not however be omitted — At a meeting of the Nassau Hall Bible Society held yesterday, it was resolved, that as far as practicable, the state of New Jersey should within the coming year be wholly supplied with bibles. This spirited reso. was not carried without opposition, yet such has been the interest manifested since its adoption, and such the zeal enlisted in its support, that we doubt not, the most sanguine expectations will be realized. Upwards of 400 $ have already been subscribed, and with the pecuniary aid yet to be advanced & the exertions which will no doubt second it in different parts of the state we hope to see the whole work accomplished

Yours in the bonds of Christ
in behalf of the Soc. of Engr
James Nurse 1: Associate Secr

Copied by A. W. Lyon

To the Society of Inquiry on Missions in the United Secession Divinity Hall Glasgow Scotland.

Theological Seminary Princeton August 28th 1827.

Dear Brethren

Your welcome letter of Sept 12th 1826 was duly received. Our delay in replying to it, has been occasioned in part by the absence of the Secretary, who conducts our correspondence with kindred societies in Europe, and in part by a desire to avail ourselves in this our annual letter, of the reports of the various benevolent Societies, whose meetings have been held during the present Summer. We thank you for the information contained in your letter. We feel an interest in every thing that relates to the advancement of our common Redeemer's cause on your side of the Atlantic; and presuming that intelligence of a similar kind from this country, is equally interesting to you, we proceed to give you a brief view of the state of Religion, and of the progress of evangelical operations among us during the past year. The annual session of the General Assembly of our church in May last was unusually interesting. An uncommon degree of pious and fraternal feeling pervaded the Assembly, and characterized all their proceedings. The reports of the Presbyteries on the state of Religion were interesting in a more than ordinary degree. Those gracious effusions of the Holy Spirit, denominated in this country "Revivals of Religion," have during the past year been poured upon many of our churches, towns and villages to an extent hitherto unparalleled; and as the result of these "refreshings from the Lord's presence", many thousands of people have been added to the Lord. We would be glad, dear brethren, to give you a minute description of one of these interesting Revivals. But our limits will allow to touch only upon a few of their prominent features. They are characterized by an unusual prayerfulness and zeal in ministers; great plainness, spirituality and pungency in their preaching; and a disposition to imitate the example of Paul in teaching from house to house, as well as publickly, testifying to Greeks and Jews, to high and low, learned and ignorant, rich and poor, wherever they can be found, repentance towards God, and faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ. In private Christians, there are great searchings of heart; frequent meetings for social prayer and conference; uncommon desires and earnest prayer for the conversion of souls. In the unconverted an uncommon seriousness and anxiety about their salvation, which brings them often to the place of prayer, and to the place of public instruction. And in all classes there is a deep solemnity, a conviction of the awful reality and importance of divine things. We wish you could go with us to the prayer meeting; where scores and sometimes hundreds of God's dear children are bending low before his throne, wrestling in prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and continuing with one accord in one place, until the windows of heaven are opened, and a blessing poured down, so that there is not room enough to receive it. Or to the "Inquiry meeting", where are frequently seen scores of anxious weeping sinners, (while their friends are praying for them in an adjoining room) borne down with the conviction of their sin and danger, while the ministers endeavours to answer to each other separately the momentous inquiry, What must I do to be saved? Brethren, it would move and melt your heart, to witness the death like stillness, the tenderness, and

and affection, which often pervades these meetings - to see the simple earnestness and faith with which the saints approach the mercy seat of Jesus, and plead for their impenitent friends; and to hear the deep drawn sigh and not unfrequently the weary groan of the guilt burdened sinner in the Inquiry room. This is no fancy piece brethren, these are things that actually and frequently occur, and to the praise of God's grace we add, that they are occurring more and more frequently with every successive year. — The late anniversaries of our national benevolent societies were interesting in an uncommon degree. The reports of the Bible, Miss, Tract, Sunday School and Education Societies, all indicate a constant increase of zeal and efficiency in the friends of Zion from year to year. In addition to the increased exertions of the national society, we mention with peculiar pleasure and thankfulness, the measures which are now in operation to supply the destitute in New Jersey with Bibles. A few weeks since, the Nassau Hall Bible Society, which is composed of the members of Nassau Hall College in this town, together with the members of our Theol. Seminary, adopted a resolution to cause every destitute family in the State of New Jersey to be furnished with a Bible, within one year. The Students of the Theol. Seminary and of the College immediately tendered their services for the ensuing vacation, to visit and explore every county, town and neighborhood in the State, in order to ascertain and report the destitute families. Agents were also appointed to visit the various Bible societies in the State, many of which have promptly engaged to cooperate with the Nassau Hall Society in carrying their resolution into effect. Should this enterprize succeed — and we have no doubt, that by the blessing of God it will — we are confident in the expectation, that the example of the N. Y. Bible Society will soon be followed by the State Bible Societies, throughout our country, and that the long prayed for time is near, when there will not be a family in the nation without a Bible. Brethren, will you not join us in praying that this expectation may be realized. — The subject of Home Missions is receiving more attention in this country, than it has at any former period. Those Christians who enjoy the means of grace feel and acknowledge the claims of their fellow citizens, who are comparatively destitute, and are making great efforts through our Home Miss. Societies, to send them the blessings of a stated ministry. Many of our enterprizing young ministers are settling for life in our new and populous States in the South and West. The system of instruction also in Sunday Schools is becoming more and more efficient and salutary in its influence throughout our country. No other work of the age appears to us more interesting and important than this: no other has stronger claims upon the patronage of all who love the cause of Christ, or who regard the temporal or eternal interests of the generations who shall come after us. Sunday Schools in this country are not intended solely for the poor; they are intended for all classes, and to be to the rising generation, what the preaching of the Gospel is to adults. The general subject of education is drawing the attention of many of our best and wisest men. Important improvements have recently been made in the system of instruction in some of our Schools and Colleges. The State of our Colleges is interesting. During the last year the Spirit of the Lord, has visited many of them in a remarkable manner, and turned many of the Students from the powers of Satan unto God.

Our schools of Theology continue to prosper, and to send forth a salutary influence through the land. — On the whole, dear brethren, we cannot but regard the great cause of truth and piety as steadily, and not slowly advancing in our country. The Lord has done for us great and mighty things, for which we bless and praise his name. At the same time we are aware, that there are evils in the midst of us which we ought to deplore in dust and sackcloth before God, and which ought to make us tremble, lest his fierce anger should burn against us. Among the most prominent of these are the inattention of vast multitudes, even where the gospel is regularly preached, to the great concerns of salvation. The daring wickedness and impiety of multitudes more. The formality, inefficiency and worldliness of many professors of religion, and of many ministers in our churches. The prevalence of destructive heresies in some parts of the country, and in some of the colleges. The want of moral and religious instruction, and the consequent immorality and misery, that prevail in some of the Western and Southern States. Above all, the existence and alarming extent of Negro Slavery. For these things we mourn and are often in bitterness. With respect to slavery however, we have great pleasure in stating that the moral sensibility of the country is awakened. Within the last few years, a salutary change has taken place in public opinion on this subject, both at the North and at the South. The evil is felt and deplored by all; Sectional jealousies are gradually dying; the friends of the Colonization Society, are multiplying in every quarter; and we have reason to hope, that ere long the collected piety, philanthropy, wisdom and wealth of the nation will be exerted for the removal of this most dreadful of national evils, and greatest of national sins. In adverting to the efforts of American Christians in the cause of foreign mission, (the subject last in order, though not least in importance that we mention) we are happy in stating that the Missions under the care of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, continue to prosper. The accounts which have reached us during the current year from our Missionaries in Palestine, the Sandwich Islands, and from some of the Stations among the Western Indians, are in the highest degree encouraging. A wide and effectual door is opening before them, and giving them access to the Gentile; while the Spirit of God clothes his word with power, and makes it effectual in turning the people from their idols and their sins to the love and worship of Jehovah. At the Sandwich Islands, although the Missionaries have been violently opposed by enemies to the mission from America and from England, and although several of their number have been called home by sickness, yet they say in their last communications that the prospects of the Mission were never so encouraging, and their hope and comfort in their work never so great as at the present time. The Society have resolved to send a reinforcement to that Mission this Autumn, consisting of four ordained Missionaries, a physician and a printer. Two of the miss[ionaries] are to go from our Seminary and two from the Seminary at Andover. The providences of God, with respect to the Sandwich Is[lands] Miss[ion] have been remarkable. Nearly two years since the Rev Mr Bingham, was called by a mysterious dispensation, to leave a station of great usefulness in the Mission and return to this country. This circumstance was very afflicting to his brethren at the Islands, as well as to the Society. Subsequent events however, have shown, that it was a part of God's gracious plan, intended for good and not for evil to the Mission.

Mr Stewart was immediately employed as an agent of the Board, to visit the Churches and Missionary Associations in different parts of the Country, communicating information respecting the state of the Heathen and of the mission at the Islands, relating facts, of which he had been an eye witness, and soliciting aid for the Society. The result is, that a new and lively interest in the Sandwich Is. Mission has been excited wherever he has been, and a new impulse given to the zeal and systematic efforts of Christians in the cause of Missions generally. Another way in which it has pleased God to arouse the Christians of America, especially the candidates for the Ministry, to their duty towards the heathen, has been the sudden removal of several of our most useful Missionaries by death. The death of Mr Fisk, one of the brightest ornaments of the missionary character, who was taken from the Palestine Mission in the latter part of the year 1825- followed by that of Mr Hall at Bombay early in 1826, made every friend of missions in our land, a mourner. But these afflictive dispensations also, the Lord of Missions has overruled for good. One of the last efforts of the lamented Hall, was the composition of a thrilling appeal to American Christians, in behalf of the perishing millions of India. This letter, followed as it immediately was, by the mournful tidings of his death, was like a message from the eternal world; it was read by thousands, and produced a deeper sensation, and probably was the instrument of more good, than any other Missionary document ever published in America. This appeal, which has been termed "Hall's Legacy to the Churches" has, among other causes done much towards the revival of the Spirit of Missions in our Society of Inquiry. It gives us pleasure to state to you, that since our last communication to you, this subject has been viewed with an unusual degree of interest in our Seminary, and that five or six of our number have avowed it as their intention to go personally and preach the gospel to the heathen. Others are agitating the question, "Lord what will thou have me to do?" and we hope they will come to the conclusion that it is their duty also to go hence to the Gentiles. We wish that the number were much larger. We long to behold the sight, and we long to have the yearning hearts of our beloved Missionaries cheered with the sight of a host of young men from our Colleges and Theolog. Seminaries turning their faces towards the long neglected heathen. When we look at the hundreds of millions of our fellow creatures, who are perishing for the want of the Gospel, and then at the farewell charge of our risen Redeemer, "Go ye, preach the gospel to every creature," the conviction forces itself upon our minds, that this charge makes a demand upon the favored churches of our land, and upon the friends of Jesus throughout Christendom, which has been but very partially answered by the exertions hitherto made to spread the gospel. And we dare not flatter ourselves with the idea, that we as a "Society of Inquiry on Missions," who are expected to set the example of zeal and disinterestedness to our fellow Christians, have fulfilled the whole of the obligation we sustain in relation to this subject. O. Brethren, and we fear that he who is greater than our hearts, is displeased with us for our apathy, and our timid reluctance to engage in this hallowed enterprize. We feel assured, moreover, that neither we nor our Churches will be the poorer for the sacrifices of comfort, wealth, health or life, which we may make in the cause of Missions to the heathen. We hold that the promi-

ple "There is that scattereth and yet increaseth" and "He that watereth, shall be watered also himself," is equally applicable to individuals, to churches and nations – We love to dwell upon the numerous and striking illustrations of this principle, which the history of modern missions furnishes – We love to see, how in the providence of God, the zeal of churches and nations in the work of evangelizing the heathen, is connected with the spiritual prosperity of those churches and nations – And the interesting fact that in our own country the prevalence of the spirit of Foreign Missions has, uniformly preceded the blessings which have been showered down upon us, in the form of Home Missions, Domestic Bible societies, Sunday schools and Revivals of Religion; and that the latter have been in a direct ratio to the former, is in our estimation of more value than all the abstract arguments in favor of missions, that ever were written –

We were much interested in your account of the proceedings of the Missionary and Bible societies; and particularly so, in what you say of the moral condition of Ireland – We have had recent accounts from that country, which are of a very gratifying nature, and which induce us to think the work of the Lord there, is rapidly advancing – We regret to learn that the Scottish Miss. Society shall meet with so much opposition in Russia – We trust, however, that their zeal is of too pure and ardent a kind to be quenched by these difficulties; and that opposition will increase, rather than diminish it – In connexion, dear Brethren, permit us to enquire what is the state of missionary feeling among yourselves – How many of your number have resolved to consecrate themselves to the missionary work? And how many will plead for their perishing brethren in heathen lands, before the favored churches of Scotland? The cry is loud and deep, "Whom shall we send?" Are there no Buchanans & Martyns & Vander Kemps, in your society, who reply – "Here are we, send us," and whose example shall kindle the fire of benevolence in hundred and thousands of hearts, that are now cold? Brethren, let us feel our individual responsibilities upon this subject: We profess to love our Lord and Master, who commands us to go and spread his gospel to every creature – and we profess to love our fellow men, millions of whom are dieing and dying without the gospel – Then let us not shrink from the inquiry, "Is it my duty to go and carry the gospel to them?" Let us bring this question home to our hearts and consciences; and may the Searcher of hearts and Pois of motives make us honest in the investigation, and lead us to such a decision, that if the heathen must perish through the neglect of Christendom, their blood shall not stain our garments, or be required at our hands –

We desire, dear brethren, ever to remain your affectionate fellow-servants in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Signed,
for the Society of Inquiry on Missions
Geo B. Whiting
Corresponding Secretary

John C. Marsh
Sept 5th 1827

Theol Seminary Princeton Sept 1st 1827

To the Society of Inquiry on Missions
in the Lutheran Seminary Gettysburg Pa.

It may have appeared long to you dear brethren, since your letter was written & you may have expected ere this a return from us, but when it is recollected that our list of correspondents is necessarily longer than yours, & that our vacation occupied a considerable portion of the time which has intervened, our not following your example in the prompt step of reciprocating our feelings of friendship, will be ascribed to any other cause, than neglect. If we were not mistaken in our feelings & motives in commencing this correspondence, we were inspired with a desire to cultivate that feeling of friendly intercourse, so essential to concentrated action in a common cause, & by a hope that the interests of vital religion in our country & the extension of its blessed influence to other & less favoured regions might be promoted by our intercourse — We were gratified to see in your answer so complete a reciprocation of those feelings and in your first communication the earnest of what we are hereafter to expect from this correspondence — We sincerely trust, & we feel strong ground for indulging this trust, that we may be mutual helpers to each institution, destined to build up a common cause, & destined as we believe by the Great head of the church, to effect great results in the future developements of his purposes — When we look over our country to find the Moral Power, which is to bring about these things, which God's truth leaves us no room for doubting will ultimately come to pass & for the human instrumentality which we firmly believe the Great God will use in bringing them to pass, we have often hailed with no common feelings, one feature somewhat peculiar to the present age — The establishment & increase of Schools, expressly intended to give young men the mingled power of learning & piety — This we are seriously persuaded, is intimately woven into a series of causes & effects, which under the superintendence of God, is to culminate in the subjugation of the Prince of darkness, the restoration of a wandering world to its allegience to its rightful Sovereign & the arrival of that period, when the "Seventh angel" shall sound & there shall be great voices in heaven, saying "the Kingdoms of this world are become the Kingdoms of our Lord & his Christ — & he shall reign forever & ever" — It is useful & animating to mark the developements of the successive causes, which are maturing this period & which are slowly indeed as it appears to us, but surely carrying it

forward its consummation, amidst all the mystery of the present scene, under the direction of him who planned & will finally perfect it, one of the grand epochs, in this grand scheme, we have judged to be the union of the warmth of genuine pious feeling & the strength of genuine christian knowledge - The history of the church through the ages that have past, has mostly been a history of their separate & often conflicting influence - Either of them alone, is insufficient - Both united will form the period, from which new glories may be expected to gather around the church of the Redeemer & new scenes be presented to the confusion of her enemies & encouragement of her friends - The conflict, we hope, is about to end, between these common friends of our cause, which united, might make the stormiest struggles to which that cause is exposed, & which divided have been the cause of the severest blows which it has ever experienced - The age in which we live, if our calculations on the present appearances are not too sanguine & exaggerated, is to see & consequently to feel the force of the combined influence of warmth engendered by feeling, & energy & prudence, arising from enlarged knowledge - This is the only force that will ultimately affect the purpose

The nature of the human mind gives us the data for concluding that learning alone will soon degenerate into cold & inactive pedantry or rank & fond infidelity - & that mere feeling, will soon terminate in fanaticism, the worst of the worst fruitful broods that ever preyed down the energies of any cause - And the annals of the church, amply confirm this a priori supposition - This union, so fraught with blessings to God & truth, will be effected at some time, we have no doubt, by the head of the church - and we look on the establishment & increase of Theological Seminaries, as the pledge given to us, that it is to be soon, as the explanation of the manner in which it is to be effected: and as such we hail it & rejoice in it & will rejoice - It is the dawn of the march of Christianity in triumph over ignorance & infidelity - It is the best prop to the pious & reflecting & expanded mind, in watching the awful movements, preparatory to the great conflict which is to decide the cause of God & his Christ in the world - It is the prospect which throws its light forward & enables the humble follower of Jesus, to view the issue of Armageddon's mysterious battle-field with calmness & composure & delight -

We therefore hail this feature of our age with interest & pleasure & ask you to join us in this delightful work - So far from viewing with distrust or dissatisfaction the establishment of Seminaries by other denominations, we take this to be an essential part of the prospect - It is truth we wish to triumph & truth while this most likely be elicited, supported & rendered universal - If ours, or any system cannot endure light, in the name of truth let it fall - & none would sing to

dirge more willingly than we — Cursed be that policy which would sustain a system perpetual by enveloping it in darkness, or keeping men orthodox by keeping them unlearned — No: let there be light & truth will triumph — How many a sectarian will be found to be weeping at the grave of his deceased opinions, or erecting a manful cypress over the fragments of a shattered creed — We repeat it let there be light; and we believe that seminaries of science blended with religion, are the best means of diffusing & increasing light & thereby scattering error, as well as forwarding the good cause of mans universal redemption — We feel assured, that concentrated action, is the secret of power & that divided power is almost tantamount to impotency & we believe that charity, forbearance & liberality the very causes of concentration, are in direct proportion to the light & intelligence diffused & prospered — If we wished our own cause, if we can be said to have a cause distinct from the common, must to flourish, we could gain our end by nothing more effectually, than by the removal of bigotry & sectarianism in others, which is sure to be effected by increase of light; while the very same causes which have contributed to our ~~increase~~, will most effectually promote the interest of others — Enlightened & liberal views, which are the necessary results of expanded knowledge, will take away the accompaniments to piety, which belong not to its essence & which frequently make it unlovely as well as inefficient, we mean, narrowness of mind & exclusiveness of spirit; & will teach us to make a distinction between opinions & men, between heresy & diversity of opinion — between error in fact & difference in sentiment; & these we have no question, are the signs of better days in the church — We are not of those, who think that even the ~~future~~ Millenial perfection will consist in perfect unity of sentiment among mankind, & perfect oneness in doctrine, government & order in the church visible — We can see important ends to be accomplished by the permission of a different state of things, even in those glorious times, & we see no reason why it should not exist, while individual holiness & church purity is as perfect as it can be We see no reason to conclude that even physical structure of mind will be different then from now & we can see that energy & activeness of mind, essentially necessary to the highest development of moral excellence, may be radically connected with some such state of things as this Therefore without any exclusive feeling & without any ambitious wish, that our faith — is to be the faith of Millenial times, we hail the advance of enlarged & expanded christian knowledge, connected with growing religious zeal, both of which we believe, it is God good pleasure to promote by means of Theological Seminaries —

There are one or two other topics to which we intended to advert & which lest we may pass, we will barely hint at, for your own

more leisure contemplation — The growth of interest in the cause of Foreign Missions & its connection with the progress of piety at home, —

It would be useful & interesting to dwell on many points in this animating theme — It would be most powerfully efficient in prompting to more earnestness in this subject, to trace the rise of this interest in individuals & communities & its connection from the principles of the human mind, with the increase of personal & national piety — It would be a piece of religious history, most interesting as well as curious, to trace the influence of this interest on particular countries — ages & churches & to point out the remarkable connection like that of cause & effect, between interest & enthusiasm in the cause of evangelizing the world & the several & extension of pure & undefiled religion. Such an examination would stretch far back, if it were fairly made & would develope some interesting & astonishing facts — Amidst the thick darkness of the middle ages, the would send some light to guide the search while at the commencement & present stage of christianity there would be discoveries made, that would gladden & stimulate the heart — We have not promised to do more than hint at this interesting subject: We have made some materials, yet at present they must be relinquished — We would propose it, as a subject in some of the Essays you mentioned in your letter — One thing more of a local nature, we would be criminal in neglecting entirely, tho we have no room for ~~neglecting~~ doing it justice. You may have heard of the resolution of the Nassau Hall bible society of this town, to supply, if possible, every destitute family in the state of N. Jersey with a bible, in the course of a year from this time in cooperation with the other bible societies of the state — The work is grand & noble & we hope feasible — Many societies have entered into it with spirit & energy — Many counties have been assumed by county societies & many townships by individuals — The spirit seems to pervade the state — Upwards of 40 of the Seminary & College, chiefly of the former have engaged to explore & distribute during the next vacation. Upwards of 400 dollars were subscribed at the time of the passage of the resolution & it has been computed that upwards of dollars have been since contributed in different parts of the state for this particular object — On the subject of personal concern in Foreign Missions we cannot speak very decidedly or favourably — One of our number, leaves us in the fall for the Sandwich Island mission — He goes with our prayers & our fondest wishes for his success in his ministry, for the communion of the wanderers God on the waves of his journey — & for peace & glory around his distant field of his labours & his distant dying day ——

We pray that your Seminary & your Society may increase & be blest by Gods best blessings — In the bonds of Christian fellowship we are yours affectionately

for, R. McCachren — For the Society of Enquiry on Missions, D H Riddle 1st Cor Sec

Autum thus Lewis

Princeton, Theol. Seminary Dec. 1st 1827

Dear Brethren,

Owing to the peculiar circumstances & movements of the Church of God we deem it important that communications between us be frequent as possible.—

An interesting & solemn Charge is already committed to our care & keeping. We are placed upon the highest Hills of Zion & from our watch towers a widely extended field stretches out before us, in which may be seen by the vigilant observer the different movements of the embattled Hosts of Heaven & Hell — of God & Mammon; and as good & faithful Soldiers of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are called upon to make report of what our Eyes have seen & our ears have heard — whether of victory to the Camp of Israel or of triumph amidst the Hosts of Darkness — if of victory to the former that our Hearts may be rejoiced & we encouraged — if of triumph to the latter, that our loins may be girded & we prepared for the Battle.—

A movement fraught with the most momentous & we trust happy consequences has lately taken place in our own State, in which the Students of the two Institutions located in this Place, have taken a decided & active part — Reference is had to the Resolution passed by the Nassau Hall Bible Society in her last annual Meeting which took place on the 31st of last July; & at a subsequent period by the State Bible Society of N. Jersey — That resolution was in substance as follows — That in reliance upon Divine aid they would endeavour to supply every destitute Family in the State of N. Jersey with a Copy of the Sacred Scriptures in one year from the passing of the Resolution. — Immediately after taking this stand the most vigorous measures were adopted to carry it into execution — Delegates were appointed to visit the County Bible Societies which existed in almost all the counties

in the State but had in a great measure fallen asleep. In consequence of this visitation many of the Counties were induced to take upon themselves the responsibility of the work within their own Borders. Some of the Students of Nassau Hall & about thirty from the Seminary volunteered their services to aid in accomplishing this glorious undertaking. By the Close of the Summer Session, every thing was in a complete state of preparation for entering directly upon the work. Bibles had been purchased in N. York & forwarded to the different Counties; so that Agents upon their arrival at their destined fields of Labour should lose no time but proceed immediately to Business. By the 1st of October all things being ready, a simultaneous & united effort was made over the Whole State - & the result is that the work is nearly completed. Our Limits will not permit us - & indeed we do not think it necessary to give you detailed accounts of our mode of proceeding in this work as a report of this Business will soon be published - & presented to the Public by the executive committee of the State Bible Society. About Six thousand. five hundred have already been distributed & about 100.000 Tracts. —— The most happy consequences may surely be expected to result from this great effort. The number of Bibles & Tracts distributed - the number of Speeches & Sermons delivered & the unusual excitement which has prevailed throughout every part of the State & among all classes and denominations will most certainly lead many an individual to ponder well the Sacred Volume - which has been the subject of so much discussion & excitement - But the effect of this work ends not with us - The influence of example is rapidly extending to other States & is felt in every department of Christian & benevolent enterprize. Pennsylvania. Delaware. Vermont & Maryland have already followed the example of N. Jersey & have taken up the work as States & in a majority of States in the Union we have heard of Counties resolving to supply immediately their own destitute. Thus the cause rolls on & we hope that the time is not far distant when there shall not be found a single destitute family within the wide Boundaries of our happy Country.

In this Cause dear Brethren we may do much-
more whilst Theol. Students. Our vacations may be
spent with profit to both Soul & Body in distributing
this Treasure to the Destitute & benighted of our Land.
But whilst effecting this blessed object we would
not forget that the Hopes of the Heathen lie
with us. It is to the Young soldiers of the Cross
that are now in training that the Macedonian cry
which is wafted to our ears by every Breeze and
which is waxing louder & louder, ought to come with
all its force — It it is not to be expected that our
Brethren who are settled as Pastors will leave their
Charges here to enter upon Labour in Foreign Lands.
It is to those then who are untrammeled that
our Churches at Home & the Heathen abroad
look for aid. It is to us especially that the
Command of our Blessed Saviour comes "Go ye into
all the World & preach the Gospel to every Creature".
Two of our number have heard the command & have
replied here Lord here are we Send us. One of them
Mr. Sulick was a member of the present Senior
Class. Mr. Andrews left the Sem. some years ago & has
been labouring in Kentucky. They are now upon the
Mighty Deep on their way to their distant Charge in
the Sandw Islds (‡). Many are anxiously & honestly
enquiring Lord what wilt Thou have us to do. This
state of things has been produced in a great
measure by the wonderful success of the Amer.
B. of F. Missions at their last meeting in N. York
& the unprecedented success of their agents since. The
Cry will soon be for men & not money & the effect
upon a Christian Public is greatly to be depre-
-cated of such a demand being made in vain. Dear
Brethren pray for us that the Lord may strengthen

and confirm any among us who are yet undecided. That you & we may be prepared to do and suffer all our Master's will concerning us is the sincere prayer of your affectionate

Brethren

‡ This, the letter being so folded as to have escaped the notice of the writer, should be inserted. "another Brother who completed his course last fall expects soon to unfurl the Christian Banner over that Land where first it waved in triumph. Some that are yet amongst us have given their names to the Board & are now waiting for marching Orders. holding themselves in readiness when the command shall come to bear the Standard of Christ far hence to the Gentiles. The Spirit of Missions is more generally & deeply felt in our Institution than has heretofore been known."

The above was written to the Brethren at Auburn by

W H Coyle &

Copied by J.J.McL

To the Society of Inquiry on Missions, Union Theological Seminary, Prince Edward County, Virginia.

Princeton December 1st 1827.

Dear Brethren

We not only acknowledge the reception of your letter of August last, but also, that we owe you an apology for our apparent neglect to thank you for its friendly contents; but in fact your letter arrived too late in our theological year to be answered before the vacation, and we now embrace this first opportunity since our reassembling to assure you of our friendly and fraternal regards. We were much gratified by the information you gave us, relative to the state of religion and society in your section of our country, and we much fear that in this respect that our letter will by no means be an adequate return. We were not a little interested by your remarks on domestic slavery and the existing causes now operating to counteract and restrain its influence, if not to destroy it altogether.

We agree with you in regarding the colonization society as an Institution of the first importance, that will eventually produce the most beneficial effects, both on the White and Black population; on the one by the magnitude and benevolence of the enterprise it will subdue the selfishness of the heart, and produce a correspondence

spirit of elevated and active philanthropy; and the other it will rescue from their moral and intellectual degradation, and exalt them to the rank of christian freemen in the land of their Fathers.

But it is to the effusion of pure and undefiled religion, free alike from the fever of fanaticism and the chill slumbers of formality that we are to look for the final extinction of this evil — This will accomplish the victory not in garments died in blood, but by the gentle flame of heavenly love, consuming the dross of human depravity; and melting the soul with tender compassion for those, who will no longer be esteemed as servants, but above servants as brethren in the Lord.

Before the all-subduing spirit of primitive christianity, the monstrous system of Roman and Grecian slavery, cemented by the blood of the murdered Helots, and the slaughtered hosts of the servile war, began to melt and be dissolved like frost before the rising sun. And if the man of sin had not arrested the progress of the truth, and usurped the kingdom of the prince of peace, the world had long since been regenerated; and slavery like the gladiatorial shows would have disappeared before the religion of him, who, when on earth, came weary with the toil of his journey and sat by the well's mouth. And it would now, only be known, as one of the cruel institutions of paganism under wh the earth once groaned, but wh had fallen before the cross like dagon before the Ark, and passed away with the impure rites of Venus and the bloody sacrifices of Moloch.

The Barbarians who overran the Roman empire, had been accustomed to slavery under the theology of Thor and Woden, and by their feudal institutions rivetted anew the chains of slavery, although in a new form. But they were gradually loosened by the first infant struggles of the reformation. The disciples of Wickliff were principally instrumental in destroying villenage and predial servitude among our ancestors in England.

Looking as we do for the final extinction of slavery and of sin only, in the full extension of Christianity, and the bringing its benign influences home to every house and every heart we receive with great pleasure the information you gave us, respecting the rapid progress and happy effects of Sabbath Schools. We know of no way by wh a country can be so speedily and so effectually christianized as by this. Perhaps no other plan could be devised to bring so large an amount of moral means to bear directly on the mass of our population. If this system was

it would in a few years change the religious and moral aspect of our country; the children who are now in sabbath schools, would then exhibit a generation of men such as the world has never seen, men fearing God and working righteousness.

In advancing this unassuming but efficient cause so happily adapted to produce the most beneficial result we cordially wish you God speed.

You have doubtless heard of the efforts we are making to supply the destitute with the Word of God. During the last vacation the Brethren of this seminary explored almost every corner of this state, have taken a systematic survey of its moral and intellectual condition; they have developed facts, and collected a mass of information respecting the religious state of the people; the influence of habits, opinions and doctrines on Society, interesting in the highest degree to the christian philanthropist, the philosophick observer of human nature; the statesman and the patriot. But our limits will not permit us to enlarge on this subject, in some future numbers of our correspondence we hope to make some further remarks. In the mean time we are with great respect your friends and brethren in the Lords. — In behalf of the Society of Inquiry on Missions

J. Cellagrava Copyist.

N. H. Harding 2nd A.C.S.

Theological Semenary Princeton N.J. Jany 1st 1828.

"The Society of Enquiry on Missions & the State of Religion,"
Association of Theological Students
for the diffusion of Christian knowledge"

To "the Edinburg

Dear Brethren,

We are happy again to reciprocate the feelings of your last affectionate & profitable letter. We will cheerfully contribute, in whatever way we can, to the end proposed by your Association, feeling it is the great cause to which we ourselves have been devoted, and which we profess to esteem "above our chief joy". The natural influence of corresponding with you, is, in a peculiar degree, elevating and expanding. Minor interests and contracted views, are naturally displaced by nobler and larger and worthier. When we direct our attention or invite the attention of others to the large divisions of the field of exertion, or the massive parts of the moral machinery devised for its cultivation, we feel, moreover, a deep conviction of the unity of the church visible — a fuller persuasion that "we, being many, are one body in Christ Jesus — a more profitable and practical assurance that "there is one Lord, one faith, one baptism

When privileged to hear from a distant region the sound of encouragement and brotherly affection, or when permitted in terms of equal affection to reciprocate it, we feel that we are not alone in the work which our Master hath given us to do, that we are but a part of "the sacramental host of God's Elect" marching to victory under the banner of our King.

The note of friendly sympathy from afar is cheering. Believing that you are "subject to like passions with ourselves" from this side the Atlantic, in the name of our common Lord, we say to you "God speed". Tho unknown in the flesh, we are "Brethren beloved" — as heirs of a common salvation — Soldiers of a common captain — ambassadors of a common Prince — our hearts and our prayers. Grace mercy & peace — be multiplied unto you from God the Father and from our Lord Jesus Christ through the Eternal Spirit —

Next to the cultivation of these feelings of union and friendship the most important object of our correspondence, is the transmission of intelligence. For the valuable mass of intelligence in your letter, and the accompanying documents, we pray you to receive our thanks. We rejoice, and will rejoice in all that is done and that is promised to be done, for the spread of the pure truths of the blessed Gospel, for "it is the power of God unto salvation" — We shall attempt a continuance of the information contained in our last, with such things of recent occurrence as we deem connected with the general interests of the Redeemers kingdom in our country —

The great and solemn question with our churches is, "how shall the means of moral cultivation be increased proportionably to the increasing population of our country, when so great a deficiency already exists. There has never been yet, a measure of moral influence coextensive with the wants of our country, and the population is yearly increasing, and a population willening as well as increasing, and by willening becoming less accessible by the common means. The answer to this momentous question — the only answer yet given, is, that machinery of which we gave you an idea in our last. Our hopes of a solution of this awfully interesting question, involving the very existence of our nation, rest on its progressively increasing energy and widening extent — As the skeleton this system is well devised. It unites muscle and nerve. A ten fold — yea an hundred fold power is made. None of this by any means beyond the physical strength of the

American churches. It is our privilege to be able to state some things to confirm this statement, and to show that the power needs only to be invoked, and that there are some indications that this will be done. The last year has given some tests of the ability and some omens of the future efforts of our American Zion. First — In the work of Bible distribution. This succeeding the past year has received a new impulse, a new era in Bible operations, we may confidently say has commenced. the beginning of better things and mightier efforts. An apathy, — a sort of uncertainty and indecision, has too long characterised our nation, we may say the world on this subject. Every creature ought to have the bible, and every creature might have, and might have it soon, if proper efforts were made — Much has been done, but nothing like what might and ought to have been done — We trust the day of lethargy is gone by. the way is open — the plan is feasible. Let not the Christian world stop, till the whole world be supplied. We make these remarks that you may enter into the following statement. In the month of August last a resolution was adopted by the Nassau Hall Bible Society, (composed of members of this institution and of the College in this place). That "In reliance on Divine aid, and in co-operation with other Societies in the State of N.J. every destitute family in the State shall be supplied with the Bible in the course of the year". The State of Jersey contains about half a million of inhabitants — the destitute families about 10.000. That resolution, within 4 months after its adoption, has been very nearly accomplished. With very little exception we may state that every family in the State has a Bible, and funds remain much beyond the amount necessary for defraying the whole expense collected. The possibility of supplying a destitute State is demonstrated. Other States have also followed similar resolutions, from the example of N.J. Besides individual counties in several states, we may state it as a fact that six States. five or six have been brought under a similar resolution, amounting to a population of upwards of 4 millions, which is nearly a third part of our whole population. Another year, we trust will see the whole of our population under the operation of such a resolution. We hope, for the sake of the example to the world for the sake of millions in every land, perishing without the Bible. we may very soon present a

spectacle unwitnessed - thus far. on our globe - a country all whose inhabitants have the Bible, and then turn with ten fold power the stream of life giving benevolence to other regions of our world.

Next to the Institutions disseminating the pure word of God, are those that send the living preacher to proclaim the gospel. The Institutions directly, or indirectly concerned in this, are Literary Institutions. Theo. Sem. Education and Domestic Missionary Societies. all of these are gaining energy. The frequent revivals of religion throughout our country raise up many youth to fill our Halls of learning. whose talents are consecrated to Christ - A remarkable feature in these revivals is the proportion of young men who are brought into the kingdom of the Saviour. Besides this many of our Colleges, where young men are training, have been blessed with the visitations of Gods reviving spirit. Several new Seminaries of Theol. have been established. one by our Gen. Ass. at Pittsburg. in the western part of Pennsylvania to supply the pressing necessities of our western Churches. Education Societies are established on a footing. which gives the privileges they confer to a greater number and with more efficacy. Domestic missionary Societies have been systematized on better principles. Instead of sending an individual over a large barren surface to scatter seed which is lost for want of ~~[illegible]~~ watering. we now confine the labours of one man to a definite & not very extensive field of action. We assist weak congregations by giving them part of the necessary payment towards the support of the minister we send to them. and encourage new settlements by securing to them stated and faithful supplies. The American Home Missionary which we mentioned in our last. is the most efficient Institution of this kind. It is the National nursery of our vacant churches and destitute regions. This Society employed. during the past year. 169 missionaries in the different states of the Union. The average proportion of supply by this society is one fourth. the rest is contributed by the people supplied. Most generally after a year or two the congregations thus assisted. are able to support a Pastor and contribute to the general cause. In this department there is a new impulse which is destined

to wake greater efforts in this interesting cause. Strange as it may appear, a considerable portion of the State of N. Jersey — is missionary ground. The christians of the State have made a resolution to change its moral aspect. For this purpose it was "resolved", in this place, a few weeks since, "that the sum of $40.000 be collected in this State from the Preby^n. Churches during the two ensuing years, to supply the destitute parts of the State, with churches, teachers, & ministers. In two congregations the sum of $6.000 has been collected. we hope the whole amount will be collected in the allotted time. This sum is yearly as much as the whole income of the American Home Missionary Society. when it is collected besides the immense immediate good to the State we trust it will be a lesson to other churches of what they may and ought to do for the destitute thousands within their bounds. It is worthy of remark that this resolution originated 4 months after the other on the subject of Bibles, by the same individual and in the same house was adopted. The spirit once roused on the mighty subject of transforming the world, and filled with the glory of the scheme, will grow in moral energy and in the boldness and vigor of its schemes and in the promptitude of their execution. This spirit made universal would change the world —

The next part of the moral influence exerted is that comprized under Tract Associations, Sunday Schools and Religious News Papers. of these we can not speak much in detail. their influence is more silent, but not less efficacious, and in many cases more extensive than that of other means — a tract may find its way when a Bible cannot — a Sunday school has been the means of salvation, when the voice of the minister could not be heard — Our National Tract Society — composed of five denominations, a minister of each being a member of the publishing committee, have distributed, during the past year 24.768.232 pages of Tracts in various parts of the United States and the world. Of these 608.660 were distributed gratuitously. The pages of their last annual report to which we refer you exhibit delightful evidence of the utility of tracts, in awakening, convincing, and converting souls. The Sunday School system is progressively useful —

Its limits are widening and its means of usefulness becoming more and more successful. "The American Sunday School union" the national institution comprehends under it 2600 schools. 24.307 teachers 174.191 scholars — increase during the year 299 schools. 509 teachers 39.119 scholars. Of these during the past year. 723 teachers. & 858 pupils have become hopefully pious. This number exceeds the past year by 481. Total who have become pious since the organization of the Union 5481. Besides the instruction given in schools by Bible classes recitations &c The Union publish a number of books adapted ~~to schools~~ for children out of which libraries are formed in the schools according to the plan mentioned in your last These books addressing the young mind & preoccupying it with reasonable moral truth. and connecting practical religion with the earliest associations, are immensely important coadjutors in the great work of changing the moral character of the rising generation. Of the religious News Papers which exert a very peculiar influence. and circulate an amazing degree of religious knowledge and information and bind the different sections of the church more closely together we can just say in a word that there are upwards of 35 visiting 50 or 60 thousand families. with 3 millions of sheets of religious matter. every year. In recounting the moral influence on our country we would by no means pass by the efforts of the Board of Foreign Missions. which we mentioned to you as the organ of our influence on other countries. the reflex action of that Society on the spirit of christians. and the remarkable connection between powerful effort in that case. and prosperous piety amongst the persons so engaged is too striking and interesting to be overlooked. Every Missionary sent to Heathen Lands exerts a most powerful influence on the interests of religion at home. The standard of piety in individuals and the tone of sentiment in communities is highest where most is done for the Heathen. The New England States have thus far taken the lead in this glorious work. but it is diffusing rapidly southward. The last Anniversary of the Society was in N.Y. city. An unusual. we may say an unparallelled feeling of interests in the cause of missions was manifested at that meeting. It was a meeting long to be remembered by those present to witness it —

and long to be felt in its influence. We speak not so much of the liberality displayed. Tho this was unprecedented, as the spirit of genuine christian feeling and earnest prayer which characterized this meeting. Anniversaries are generally desecrated by the mode of their management. Little of the peculiarity of meetings for the most awfully interesting purposes pervade them. The pomp and circumstance ill befit the object and the end. This meeting will, we trust change the nature of Anniversaries. A spirit of prayer and fervent business like action rather than elegant display and refined speculations will be the future features of our Anniversaries. That an eloquent speech should be postponed to give vent to the feelings of an assembled meeting in strong prayer to God. is a new thing. Yet this was the case. We were told by those at the meeting that it resembled the pentecostal day. The Claims of perishing millions - excited the prayers - the agonizing prayers, as well as the liberal contributions of the people of God. When this becomes the universal feeling in this country and yours at such meetings, the great work will be promoted. We need prayer. a spirit of Apostolic prayer and faith and the world will be moved. for we link Omnipotence to our effort and claim eternal truth for the fulfillment of glorious prophecy — At this meeting a resolution before proposed to raise $100.000 for five successive years. for the cause of missions was discussed. The tide of feeling produced, we may confidently say, was never equaled in the history of benevolent institutions - the grandeur of the plan, the glory of the lofty tone of energy expressed in the resolution met corresponding sentiments - upwards of $100.000 were subscribed on the occasion, and the example has been nobly followed by other towns. This augurs also a new era in the contributions of this most noble and interesting cause, so directly concerned in severing the veil that covers the nations. This sum, when collected, will employ many of our young ministers who are preparing for the vineyard of their Lord. The spirit of missions has we trust been growing in our Sem. since our last communication. The organ of that communication Mr G. B. Whiting has devoted himself to the field of foreign labour. He will probably be stationed in Palestine. We have sent out a brother from our Present 1st class to the Sandwich Island mission —

Mr P. J. Gerlick. We feel much interest in the operations of our Board on its own account and also its mighty influence on the state of religion at home.

In our brief outline of moral influence in counteracting the ignorance and vice of our country we can only further mention the names of other institutions, all of which continue to exert a salutary ~~influence~~ the necessarily a more limited influence. The Seamans friend Society for the benefit of this formerly neglected portion of our community. Prison discipline Society for giving the benefit of religious instruction to the wretched inmates of the prisons of our country. Temperate Societies" whose object is to check the growing evil of intemperance, a fearful and melancholy crime in our Nation, a deluge sweeping in its dark career, genius, talent, learning, and sometimes apparent piety. These are our hopes for our beloved country, these are the pledges that we will not suffer our nation to sink into vice without a struggle, and by the blessing of Heaven on these, we hope to elevate our country in morality and religion — to be the hope of the dark world — That world looks to us. Great Britian & America must be the fountains of moral influence. We watch every effort of either country with anxious interest, every movement is fraught with interest and destiny to millions. What can we expect from France fettered by Catholicism. Germany steeped in infidelity. Italy Spain and Russia, hopelessly broken in moral strength by peculiarities of national ~~strength~~ character, religious faith and in short, for the remainder speaking of continents instead of countries, from Asia and Africa for the renovation of the world? Our position to a fallen world is interesting and responsible. Let our zeal be measured by our responsibility. God grant it for Christ's sake

D. H. Riddle 3 cor Sec

For the Society of inquiry on Missions &

(D. V. M. Lean transcript)

Theo: Semy Princeton 1st March 1828.

To the students in the Theological Department at Yale College.

Dear Brethren,

It becomes my duty in accordance with a resolution of the "Society for Enquiry On Missions" composed of the students of Theology in this seminary, to lay before you the plan and objects of this society, with a view to solicit between you and us, a correspondence which we believe may be to our mutual benefit; and which may also promote the great cause to which we are alike indebted, and to which we are by profession devoted. Our object is, to collect such information on the subject of domestic and Foreign Missions, and to acquire such a knowledge of the state of true religion in the World, as shall enable us by a comprehensive view of the whole, to determine our personal duty, in relation to the mode and sphere in which we are severally to act. We have chosen as the best means in our power a correspondence with the principal missionaries, and missionary stations in the world, with Theological Seminaries and associations, and with private individuals; which correspondence enables us to receive and impart much very valuable information.

In our mutual communications we are happy to say there is always room for urging such motives, and devising such means as may be the result of inquiry and reflexion. Our Association is from its very nature adapted to keep before us the principles of that commission under which we are to act "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature",— and we rejoice to believe it has not been unattended with the blessing

of God. We believe the cause of Missions to be the great leading characteristic in the movements of the Church at the present time. And although the benevolence which is now at work is but the charity of the Gospel diffusing itself in different modes, yet it is the cause of Missions which by its direct and reflex influence upon the Church at home is awaking its members into life & motion

With a location so favourable as yours, in the centre of intelligence of almost every kind, radiated and refleated by a thousand objects connected with learning and religion, may we not hope by a mutual communication (such as we propose) for new light and vigour in prosecuting the inconceivable interests of the kingdom of truth; and by mutual encouragement to prompt to more efficient personal service in the common cause.

It is not for us brethren, to recount to you what wonders are exhibited daily in the progress of religion over the world. But may we not without presumption ask ourselves, and prompt others whose hearts we believe to be in union with ours to do likewise - may we not propose to ourselves individually the questions, How can we employ the One, two, or five talents committed to our improvement, to the best advantage? How can we exert our united influence upon Colleges and Seminaries and Theological Institutions so as to bring the minds in them, to bear under the most favourable circumstances upon no less an object than that of evangelizing the world? And how much can we do by resolving personally to preach the Gospel to Pagans and to Mahommedans - and why is it not our duty to do so?

With inquiries of this kind pressing upon our minds, and in view of the responsibilities which the providence of God has imposed upon us by leading us to look to the ministry

we solicit your influence, and cooperation and interest, in our common cause. Is there among you a spirit of Missions it will give us great pleasure to hear of it? Have you any information in relation to the subject not given to the Public, you will further the interests of our Society by communicating it from time to time as to you may be convenient. Forward us any thing which can increase our motives, or augment their power, and we shall feel ourselves under obligations which we shall be happy to repay by any means in our power.

The society in whose behalf I address you meets on the first day of each month, at which time letters received from the several Theological schools in this Country and in Europe and from Missionaries and individuals throughout the world are read; and such other exercises as to us seem best adapted to promote the object for which we have been organized.

We hope you will not deny us the pleasure of a correspondence, nor withold from us the aid which you may thus give to the progress and domination of Truth over the world.

Yours in the bonds of the Gospel,

Daniel L. Wood.

First corresponding Secretary of
the
"Society for Inquiry on Missions"
Theo: Sem.y Princeton. 1.st March 1828.

Theological Semy. Princeton. March 1st 1828

Society of Inquiry on Missions &c to the—

Revd T. S. Harris. (of the Seneca Mission.)

Dear Sir

We have on file a letter from you, dated March 12th 1827. You will perceive that nearly a year has passed since that date; and we suppose your letter has not been answered. We are altogether unable to account for this neglect, and are sorry it should have occured

Since the reception of your letter we have not been unconcerned spectators of your mission, and of the gracious dealings of the Lord with your people. Sufficient time has passed to afford us opportunity to observe and estimate the result of your labours: and we are glad to be assured your anticipations have been, to some good extent, realized. In your letter, you mentioned to us some of these results. You stated that a few individuals had been added to your church, and were considered by you as the first fruits of a harvest yet to be gathered in. We rejoice to know that you have not altogether been disappointed.

By the Missionary Herald for July, Aug.t & Dec. we learn that at successive seasons, accessions have been made until your church now includes 30 persons, most of them added, if we are correctly informed within a year or two. We do not pretend, dear Sir, to enter into your feelings on this subject. The spread of the Gospel is matter of rejoicing to every one who loves our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity, but you have borne and had patience, and for his name sake have laboured and have not fainted, and God has granted success. Your pleasure then must be peculiar, at least in some degree. We are also glad that the neighbouring Indian stations Tuscarora and Catteraugus appear to prosper share the smiles of the Lord of Mercies. Your work is very interesting, we suppose your labours are arduous, and the difficulties which you have to encounter are numerous and disheartning: but greater is he that is for you than all that are against you. It gives us great pleasure to be informed that the influences of your Mission is

increasing, and that the open opposition of the pagan party is becoming less violent. We do not forget however that you have still to contend with the almost inveterate prejudices of long established customs, seconded by the deep depravity of the heart and if you had entered the field in dependence on your own wisdom and strength, it would no doubt have proved a desperate undertaking. But faithful is he that has promised "lo I am with you always" he has verified that promise, and by his gracious presence, has given sanction and effect to your endeavours to preach the gospel

Respecting ourselves we have but little to communicate that is likely to be interesting to you. Our Seminary continues to flourish: our catalogue numbers 108, more than 30 of whome will probably leave the Seminary next fall. How many will devote themselves themselves to Missionary labours, we are not able to say. The subject of Missions has continued to occupy our attention, and of late, especially, has seemed more than usually interesting. The Revd Mr King visited us a short time ago, and his conversation and publick addresses produced a lively sensation among the brethern. The Revd Mr Peters Sec. of the Home Miss. Soc. and Mr Jeremiah Evarts Sec. of the A.B.C.F.M. have just been with us. and conferred with a number of the brethern on the subject of foreign & home missions. We feel encouraged to hope that the cause of Missions is about to obtain more serious attention, and more hearty cooperation among us than it has ever done. We concur with you in opinion as to its importance. We have heard and daily hear, distinctly the loud cry for religious instruction, coming up from many places. We dare not turn away and shut our ears from such sounds. But we must confess our hearts are far too insensible, our sympathies too languid and our exertions by no means what they ought to be. Yet we hope for better things and we do rejoice in the great extention of the means of grace, and the increase of plans devised for doing good. You have perhaps heard of the efforts of our Bible Societies to supply every destitute family with the Scriptures. Our own State (N.J.) has been one of the first explored and supplied. The Spirit that prompted this undertaking has been caught by others at a distance and work is going on in other states. Do not these things cheer your heart and

encourage you in your arduous labours. You are not alone — there are thousands in the field, and thousands more, we trust will soon unite with those already engaged, and a noble struggle will be made to recover the alienated possessions of our Lord and Master

We salute you in the Lord.

J. D. Pickands, Secty —

Copied by Wm C. Matthews.

Theol. Sem. Princeton (N. J.) March 1st 1828 —

Rev. S. A. Worcester.

Dear Sir.

I am directed to say that the Society of Inquiry on Missions &c very cheerfully subscribe for the Cherokee Phoenix, the Prospectus of which you lately forwarded to us. We are glad to have it in our power to give any, even the least encouragment to so laudable an undertaking: Especially since the proposals & arrangments for the work have met the approbation of the Missionaries on your stations. We hope that much good will result from this attempt to enlighten the ignorant & to reform the vicious. And we pray the God of knowledge & virtue ever to preserve this, and every other medium of instruction among the Cherokees from error & corruption. —

The subscription list which you sent will remain open to those who may wish to subscribe individually, or who may have an opportunity to procure subscribers to the work.

Yours, Dear Sir, in Christian affection —

J. D. Pickands, Secty —

To Rev. S. A. Worcester.
New Echota. Cherokee Nation.

Theological Seminary Princeton Aug. 1828

Society of Inquiry
on Missions

To the Revd. Edmond Crisp Missionary at Madras

Rev. and very Dear Sir

Two or three weeks since we had the pleasure to receive a communication from yourself dated Feb 13th 1828 together with "the annual Reports of the Madras Miss. & Relig. Tract Societies &c" for which we desire you to accept our sincere thanks. Your interesting Reports show us the pleasing fact that the cause of truth is gaining ground in that land where the human mind has so long groaned under the ravages of error. We bless God for all the success with which it has pleased him to crown your efforts and those of your beloved coadjutors to diffuse the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour among the dark and benighted Pagans of India; and our prayer is that he would continue to smile upon your labours, fill your hearts with the consolations of his grace, pour out abundantly of his Holy Spirit and glorify his name by translating through your instrumentality multitudes of the heathen from the kingdom of Satan into the kingdom of his dear Son.

Dear Brother we firmly believe that the ultimate success of the cause to which you are devoted, is certain. The faithfulness of Jehovah is pledged for its final triumph. And tho' he may try your faith and patience, and perhaps call you from your labours before you see those mighty systems of Idolatry and superstition demolished, which the god of this world has been so many centuries erecting and fortifying yet they must at length crumble and fall. We do not expect however that the Enemy will give up his strong holds without a mighty Struggle. You have already witnessed in some measure with what determined resistance he disputes the ground. But the success which has hitherto attended your efforts gives you abundant reason to thank God and take courage. We would gladly send you some intelligence from this part of the field which shall serve to strengthen your faith if it were necessary: and perhaps in replying to your inquiry concerning the progress and prospects of the cause of Christ in America we can say something that will have that tendency.

The first thing we shall mention and that which must be most delightful and encouraging to the heart of a Missionary is. the increasing spirit of prayer among christians for the spread of the Gospel throughout the world. If the Lord gives his people a spirit of prayer will he withhold any thing which he has promised to bestow in answer to prayer? We think our Americans Zion never travailed

-ed with more pain for the delivery of the world from sin and death as now
Her cries have entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabbaoth as is evident
from the influences of the Spirit which have descended and are descending
on many parts of the land. Revivals of religion (as these seasons of the
outpouring of the H. Spirit are called) have never been more ~~frequent~~ or
more extensive and powerful in this country than during the last two or
three years. In that time there have been probably 100000, or more con-
-verted to God, and added to the different Evangelical churches in the
U. States.

The next thing that we shall speak of as calculated to encourage
the hearts of the servants of God is, the growing liberality and zeal of
Christians to extend the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. all
our great National Associations such as The Am. Board of Com. for For.
Missions. The Am. Home Mis. Soc. The Am. Bib. Soc. The Am. Education
Soc. The Am Sunday School Union. The Am. Tract Society &c. are moving
majestically forward in their operations and gaining fresh strength at
every successive step. The first of these Societies expended last year a-
-bout 100000 dollars for the propagation of the gospel among the hea-
then. During the current year their receipts will undoubtedly amount
to double that sum. This Board are making arrangements to establish
as soon as possible 3 new Missions 1 in Greece 1 in Western Africa and
1 on the N. West coast of N. America. This Society receives its funds
chiefly from the benevolent connected with 2 religious denominations
the Presbyterians and Congregationalists or Independents. The general
Assembly of the Pres. Church have a board of Missions besides which is
about taking up the subject of both For. & Dom. Missions with new
spirit and will we doubt not prosecute its plans with zeal and energy
Our Episcopalian, Methodist and Baptist Brethren have separate
Missions connected with their respective churches which are represen
-ted as prosperous

The American Home Miss. Soc. whose chief object is to assist
congregations which are unable to support the Gospel Ministry
and to send the gospel to the destitute within the U. States employed
during the last year 201 Missionaries. Besides this National Society
there are several other Domestic Missionary Societies which employ
from 3 to 200 Missionaries. making in all between 5 and 600. This No.
will be increased as fast as men can be educated and prepared
for the work. The Am. education Society is bringing forward all
the young men of piety and talents that can be found willing to
devote themselves to the work of the Ministry. This Society has now
some hundreds under its patronage

The enterprise of circulating the Bible has received a new im-

-pubs within the last year. Resolutions have been entered into by differ-
-ent Bible Societies to supply within 2 or 3 years with a copy of the Scriptures
every destitute family to be found in an extent of territory embracing about
6 000000 inhabitants. This work is already above half completed: and we
hope the time is not far remote when every family in the U. States shall
have a copy of the word of life. We trust also that the way will soon
be opened to disseminate the Scriptures among the Roman Catholics of South
America. The free governments which have lately sprung up there, we
expect will afford facilities for this work that have not before existed.

Sunday Schools are effecting much for the spiritual welfare of the rising
generation. In the Schools connected with the Am. S. S. Union are
about 300000 Scholars and 50000 teachers. In Schools not connected with
this Union there are from 50 to 100000 more. The only other Society
of whose operations we have room to speak is the Am. Tract Society.

This Society published last year above 5 Millions of Tracts con-
-taining more than 53 Millions duodecimo pages. Such Dear Sir is a
very brief general view of some of the benevolent exertions that are
making here in the cause of our Dear Redeemer. From this rapid
glance you will perceive that the Church is waking from her slum-
-bers and coming up to the help of the Lord against the mighty: but
she is yet far, very far too slack in the work of the Lord. We are do-
-ing nothing in comparison of what is to be done and of what we might
and must do. — We shall be glad to hear from you as often as may be
and shall hope as you have kindly promised that you will
send us from time to time your Reports, or any hints that will
help us in our inquiries concerning the field in which the Lord
would have us to labour.

In behalf of the Soc. of Inquiry on Religious &c
Rev. Edmon Crisp Miss. Madras. Yours in the bonds of christian love
Wm Hervey Cor. Sec.

Copied by C. R. Mustard

Missionaries at the Sandwich Islands

Theological Seminary. Princeton

Dec 1st 1828

Dear Brethren & Sisters in the Lord

As so favourable an opportunity of writing now offers, we would do injustice to to you, & also to our own feeling, were we not to embrace it— Mr Stewart, late Missionary, expects to embark in a few days, as Chaplain on board of U S Vessel, bound for the Sandwich Islands. You will no doubt receive by him printed documents containing intelligence concerning all the great movements of our American Churches during the past year: what you do not receive in this way he can impart personally, far more satisfactorily than we can by writing, we shall not therefore enter into details on any subject — The last has indeed been an eventful year with our American Zion, more Souls, we believe have been born into the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus & more has been done & more has been done for the Glory of the Redeemer during the past, than any preceding year— Revivals of religion, those precious seasons, when the invisible power of divine grace is felt by multitudes, have still continued to bless our land. Nor have they been confined as heretofore, in a great measure to our Northern & Eastern Churches they have also visited our western States, & thousands who but now were far off, have been brought nigh by the blood of Jesus. Parts of Ohio & Kentucky, especially have been greatly blessed, The minutes of the last Gen. Assembly which we forward you with this, will show the additions to that church during the past year — Had we access to other Ecclesiastical records we would send them also, for our Sister Churches of the Congregational Baptist & Methodist denominations, have been no less, perhaps more blessed than our own. The tone of moral feeling generally in our Country is, we believe, becoming more & more elevated. Systematic & vigorous exertions are now making in almost all parts of our land to promote the better observation of the Holy Sabbath, to suppress intemperance, & indeed to put down vice and immorality of every kind — To effect the two former objects, National Societies have been formed, which already embrace numerous Auxiliaries, & by their combined influence promise incalculable good — In regard to foreign Missions we believe this cause is daily becoming dearer & dearer to the hearts of all the Lord Jesus. But as we doubt not

you will receive ample intelligence on this subject from the Missionary Rooms, we forbear enlarging on the subject. In the cause of Home Missionaries, also a deep interest has been awakened during the past year — Since last May the Gen. Ass^s have commissioned more than 40 Missionaries to labour in destitute parts of our own Country & among the Indians, Concerning the operations of the A. H. M. Society, we refer you to their last report, which we herewith transmit you — In this Country the Great Valley of the Mississippi whose population at present is little less than 4 Millions & which is destined at no distant period, to Controul the counsels of our nation, begins in a special manner to awaken the interests of our Eastern Churches — To send the Gospel to them we are prompted by every consideration, that can address itself, to us as men as Citizens & as Christians — these are our fathers, our brothers and sisters according to the flesh, these are the men who ere long are to sway the destinies of our republic — But above all these are immortal souls sinking down to death as surely & we had almost said in as great numbers as among the heathen — Nor are the people of this Valley merely passive, while such a lively interest is excited in the breasts of Eastern Christians on their behalf — No their earnest, their importunate & their reiterated cry is "come over & help us" — but alas we have but few pastors to send them — A few of our last class have cast in their lot among them — one at New-Orleans, one at Pensacola & others in various parts of that extended valley — you will see by a printed statement which we forward you, what has been done in this state in regard to the circulation of the Sacred Scriptures. — The resolution which was adopted on this subject has been carried fully into effect, & while it has gladdened the hearts of thousands in N. Jersey who were perishing for lack of knowledge, it has given an impulse to the Bible cause, which we trust will never cease till there shall not be found, one house in all our land destitute of this precious treasure. — Soon after the resolution was adopted in this state, Others began to follow the example untill at least 9 States viz. N. Jersey Pennsylvania Del Maryland Virg Ken Conne Vermont & Massachusets, besides numerous counties in other States, have resolved in reliance on divine aid to supply before January 1830 all the destitute families within their bounds, with a copy of the word of God — The population of our Country in regard to which such resolutions have been passed is perhaps about 6 millions. In consequence of such exertions at home. Our National Bible Society is considerably embarrassed & utterly unable to meet the pressing

demands from above. The State of this institution, however, you will see, by the last annual report, which we now forward — The researches which were made, in the Bible Cause, in this state, have already given rise to another important enterprize, among us. It was found that Multitudes, both old & young, after they had the Bible, were unable to read it — according that it might not remain in a Sealed Letter. A few friends of the Redeemer, impelled by a love of souls & an ardent desire for their Salvation, resolved, at a Missionary meeting in this place, with the help of the Lord to raise $40 000, in the Space of 2 years, for the support of Missionaries & common schools in the destitute parts of N Jersey. From the efforts of agents & the hearty cooperation of influential men in various parts of the State, a large part of this sum has already been secured. More than twenty five common schools in which are near a thousand children have been established & a want of suitable teachers, is all, that prevents the adoption of a complete system of common schools throughout the State. From the aid, which is confidently expected, from the Legislature now in Session, it is believed, that before the close of another year, one uniform & efficient system of Education will be in successful operation throughout, the whole State. Thus you see, that these efforts however feeble & circumscribed, compared with what they might be, yet fully show that there are some among us who duly estimate the worth of an immortal soul — Whether any of the other States, will follow N Jersey, in her present efforts is yet to be seen. — In regard to our own Seminary, we have but little to say, as there is nothing special among us at present. Our Professor Mr Hodge, has returned from Europe, has returned to resume his duties. Our present number of Students is about one hundred, a clear, of upwards of 40 entered this fall — Concerning the State of religion & Missionary feeling among us it becomes us to speak with modesty. One thing, indeed is certain, we are all far from possessing that deep & ardent piety, which it is our duty & our privilege, to possess. Yet God we believe does really dwell among us, & sometimes manifests himself to us, as he does not, unto the world. — The cause of foreign Missions also lies near our hearts, but how many, of our present number will actually go to the Heathen, we cannot tell. Three at least have already given their names to the Board, & there is at present, we believe, a spirit of deep & serious & prayerful inquiry going on in the hearts of Many, of the Brethren, in reg, respecting their own personal duty in regard to Missions. How these inquiries may result cannot be foreseen. Nothing perhaps has more influence on our determination than frequent intelligence from Missionaries, who are already, laboring among the Heathen, & permit us, Dear Brethren, to say, few, if any would be likely to interest more, in this great work than yourselves.

You were our Countrymen, Some of you were our companions with whom we have frequently walked to the house of God, & taken sweet counsel together, & with whom we have often prayed for the conversion of the Heathen, We hope then you will unite by the first & by every opportunity — Your attention may thus for a moment be withdrawn from your more immediate duty. — but we trust it will not be in vain, If prosperity attend you, if the Gospel runs & is Glorified among those to whom you are Sent — we will rejoice & give thanks on your behalf. If you are in Sorrow & affliction & almost ready to say with David. "I Shall one day fall by the hand of this Saul" It will induce us, we trust, to pray for you, with more fervour, that whatever hinders may be taken out of the way. You are Labouring where but now was Satan's seat; where "darkness covered the land & gross darkness the people" You a darkness which was never until now disturbed with even a Watchman's cry — But you are now Watchmen there & in the language of the Holy Prophet, we Send over the wide expanse of waters, that lie between us, the earnest Inquiry, "Watchmen what of the night" "Watchmen what of the night", Oh when can we hear the response, not only from you, but from all the Watchmen on Zions walls "The morning cometh" The good Seed hasten it, in its time & to his name be the glory.

With the most tender affection, Dear Brethren & Sisters
We Salute you in the Lord
D. V. McClean & Cor Secretary
In behalf of the Society of Inquiry.

P S Mr Waldo formerly a classmate of Mr Judd, now a Student of this Seminary, desires to be affectionately remembered to him.

Princeton March 2d 1829

Dear Brethren

Your last dated June 4th was received & it gave us pleasure to again hear from you and to receive the expressions of regard & christian friendship which your letter contained. If any apology be thought necessary for an apparent delay on our part in replying, we would merely say that owing to a change of Secretaries which unavoidably takes place, the business of answering the correspondencies which we have with several Societies has been somewhat interrupted and that otherwise your letter had before this time been answered. The interchange of friendly feelings with those who are united with us in the faith of Christ is always pleasing, and while towards you we entertain these feelings, and are gratified at receiving your communications as coming from those who have the same common hope of Salvation, we are also happy to find in what you communicate, notices which may serve to strengthen & animate us in our efforts to promote that cause for the success of which both our Societies have alike been formed. In regard to this we concur in the sentiment expressed in your last, that though minor differences both of doctrine & practice divide the Church of God, yet that to all the world presents one common field of labour & that in occupying & labouring to cultivate this, all are equally to exert themselves & to join their exertions that they they may the more successfully spread the Gospel. The state of the world at the present day gives great encouragement on many accounts to the friends of Christianity, both with respect to forming such plans as are most likely to extend and establish its influence and the selection and use of such means as are best suited to carry them into execution. For as we are furnished with various and abundant information acquired at different periods by the enterprises of travellers & more especially by the labours of Missionaries both on the eastern and western Continent as well as the Islands of the sea, we are able to view the manners & customs which prevail among the different heathen nations & particularly their superstitions in quite another and far more correct light than formerly. Heretofore the variety of language used in the several heathen countries & the fact that we seldom had any other way of learning to communicate ideas than what could be gathered from the conversation of the natives and even where books

and in some degree a system are found, that presenting a structure of language so much at variance with those known among more civilized nations, seemed to raise a serious obstacle to all endeavours to publish to the ends of the earth the truths of the Gospel. Those Missionaries who have been zealous in endeavouring to spread the knowledge of Salvation to the pagan world & who have devoted themselves to this work have in most cases been obliged to bestow much time & labour on merely acquiring a medium of communication between themselves and the natives & when thus only prepared to preach have been called in many instances, by sudden death from the field of labour. At present however, this obstacle, if not altogether removed, has to a good degree been obviated. For owing to the knowledge on this subject gained by some Missionaries and to the Missionary establishments now existing in different pagan countries the means are furnished for acquiring with comparative ease most of the heathen languages & of those less known little sufficient information has been obtained to shew in what way it is best to study them. With regard to the facilities enjoyed at the present day for conducting missionary operations, it may also be remarked that the intercourse carried on with various parts of the world for commercial & national purposes is so much more extensive & regular than formerly, that it has become one important advantage to those who engage in the work of spreading the Gospel. Besides, a consideration of much importance is that the experience collected at different periods respecting the most proper methods of giving instruction to the heathen in the truths of religion, has opened the way for those who now enter this service to employ their time & labours to much more effect than they once could have done. Now in thus offering to your notice the many facilities possessed at the present day for spreading the gospel, more especially to the heathen, our design is not merely to present this subject no doubt is already familiar to you but chiefly to suggest one thought which we believe you will agree with us in considering important, and which is this that the improvement of these facilities now enjoyed depends almost wholly upon the ministry. These advantages are great and if rightly used may be made to produce great good. The intercourse opened & the acquaintance formed between uncivilized & civilized nations have in many cases been pernicious to

both morals of both and now that commerce has greatly been increased this intercource 'tis not easy to conceive how much the state of the world will become corrupted if the influence of religion is not spread by sending the gospel to the heathen, But what is of infinitely more consequence than the good to be done in regard to morality, the gospel so far as the designs of Providence are revealed to us, is to be the means of bringing the heathen nations to the knowledge of Christ & thus of saving their Souls. What an object is here to be accomplished! How many advantages are afforded for attaining it! & yet without suitable efforts made by ministers of the Gospel, there is comparatively no prospect that the means will be used and the good effected. The main difficulty with worldly men in carrying their plans into execution is the want of proper instruments for they are always so bent on their favourite pursuits that they are ever ready to improve the smallest advantage, The minister of the Gospel has higher motives & in the service of Christ is called to more active diligence We have suggested these reflections because we believed that you would think them interesting & because we could have communicated very little else in the way of particular information respecting missionary exertions with which you are not already acquainted, Wishing your Society every blessing and hoping that we shall have the pleasure of soon hearing from you. We remain affectionately your Brethren in Christ

Theodore Gallaudet. Sec.d ass.t Sec.

A B Quay Copyist

Princeton 1st April 1829

To the Society of Inquiry on Missions at Pittsburg

Dear Brethren

We received with pleasure your letter dated January 3d in which you mention that the Students of the Western Theological Seminary had formed themselves into a Society for Inquiry on Missions and that it was your wish to open a correspondence with us on that subject. It is always gratifying to us to engage in correspondences of this kind, which are calculated to promote the cause of Missions, which was the end in view in originally forming our association, and it is now with much pleasure, that we embrace the opportunity of opening a correspondence with your Society.

The mere interchange of kindred feelings must in all circumstances be a source of much real enjoyment to christian individuals and Societies which though separated by distance in this world are yet united by a common bond of faith and love; but when in addition such intercourse is made the occasion as in the correspondence which we now commence with you, of answering some useful purpose in advancing the Kingdom of Christ, we may look upon it in a light still more sacred and inviting, and must from every motive be ready to begin and cherish it. — We are fully sensible of the important relation you bear to the Western States, and from the numerous population already there, and which is rapidly increasing, that a large number will be found who will pursue their preparatory course of Study at your Seminary from whom we can not but think and hope that many will be led to devote themselves not only to the work of supporting and spreading the gospel in the western regions, but also to preach Salvation to the heathen nations. As the information which we collect and the exertions which we make, are not limited to Missionary operations as they are conducted in this country only, but extend to those also that are carried on in foreign lands, you will not think it inappropriate if we here suggest a thought on the subject of foreign Missions, not but what the idea is already appreciated by you in its proper force, yet you will suffer us to bring it before your minds by way of remembrance. It is this that when Christ ordered

out his great salvation, which is revealed in the gospel, he designed it to be preached unto the ends of the earth. Thus when the commission of Christ was given to his immediate apostles it was to preach the gospel among all nations and in performing this command we find the apostles exposing themselves to all dangers in order to spread far the message of salvation, also in ages after that period, it has been the judgment of Christians not merely that the gospel may be spread to all nations, and that too with profit but that the actual design of Christ was to have this done. And if we look at those parts of heathen lands to which missionaries have gone we see that in many cases, the influence of the spirit in blessing the truth preached and renewing the hearts of natives has plainly shewn that it was designed by the salvation of the gospel to bring all tribes and people of the earth into the one fold of Christ. Yet while it is the design of God that the light of the gospel be carried to enlighten the dark stores of Paganism, he has been pleased to appoint that this shall be accomplished by the instrumentality of men, and chiefly of ministers of the gospel. While Societies of various kinds are readily formed and while contributions of money may be collected sufficient to supply every want in the conducting of Missionary exertions, still the chief want is of ministers of the gospel who may go with the blessings of the Lord and be the means of fulfilling his gracious designs in bringing the multitudes of the heathen from ways of death into the way of life. Will there not be some of your number who will choose this portion of labour in the work of the ministry and devote themselves to the cause of spreading the salvations of the gospel into foreign lands of heathen ignorance.

The various information received within a few months from the different Missionary stations is favourable and affords matter of encouragement to continue and increase the efforts already made. At the Settlement of Liberia though they have recently met with a great loss by the death of Lot. Carey, yet there is much reason to expect that by raising up native teachers in their schools they will do much towards spreading the gospel through the tribes of Africa, by the accounts received from Greece from Mr King, who is now there, the people of that unhappy country are

ready to have schools introduced among them, and it is for Missionary Societies by doing this to lay the foundation for a permanent establishment of Christianity; in Ceylon the native schools are still prosperous, and in addition to the personal labours of Missionaries they will send forth many natives prepared to preach the Gospel: At the Sandwich islands the number of natives who attend the preaching and instruction of the ~~natives~~ missionaries is large and the improvement in the state of society and the conversions of several of the natives shew that the labours there have been successful, and will give a great facility to effort made there in future: And in South America the way is now opened in several parts for distributing the Scriptures readily and extensively even among Roman Catholics, Much it is true in various parts of the world has been effected in spreading the news of Salvation, yet when it is remembered how many of our fellow creatures are still in darkness, in Pagan lands, and daily dying in that state, it must be felt that comparatively but little has been done and that the call which comes from such multitudes of perishing immortal beings is urgent upon lands more favoured to send them the word of life. In closing we would say that your communications will always be gratifying, and we trust profitable to us. Wishing you success in your exertions and every blessing from the Lord, we remain affectionately your brethren in Christ

Lindley C. Flutter.
Copyist

Theodore Gallaudet.
Secd Asse Secy.

To the society of Inquiry on Missions
in the Theological Seminary. Andover Mass

Dear brethren

It is with pleasure that we now
resume a correspondance, which has been inter-rupted
through so many months. The reason of our
protracted silence has not been owing to any
indifference on our part to that bond of union
which exists between us, but because of some chang-
-ments of our Society, and to some omission in
our records we have been unable to determine
which of the two societies is at present in arrears
to the other. From some circumstances however
we are induced to believe that ourselves are
the debtors, and we therefore embrace the
present opportunity of cancelling the debt, and
apologizing for our apparent negligence. Fully
persuaded that nothing tends so much to unite
those brethren who are widely separated from each
other, as the frequent, cordial ~~&~~ inter-change
of sentiment & feeling, we sincerely hope that
our correspondance which was commenced under
so happy auspices & which has been so long continu-
-ed will not be suffered to languish in the hands of
those upon whom is now devolved the duty of conduc
-ting it. Although it is probable that the great ma-
-jority of members of our respective societies, will
never be brought together in the present world
it becomes us all constantly to remember that we
are brethren - children of the same Almighty
parent, redeemed by the same precious atoning
blood, & devoted to the same glorious cause. Whilst
the character and conduct of worldly men
are often determined in great measure by
their local attachments & local prejudices. Whilst
they often seem to have no interests beyond the
narrow sphere of their own intimate friends &
associates, it becomes christian brethren, and especially
those who are candidates for the ministry & a

that difference of eternal circumstances can oppose no barrier to their mutual affection and esteem. As they are professedly one in Christ, so ought they to be one in heart. Their own private and individual interests may indeed be widely different, but in every thing which pertains to the kingdom of Christ, their interests are one and the same. Here then is the bond which unites us, a bond stronger than death & lasting as eternity. — In regard to the state of Religion in the Seminary & in our immediate neighbourhood we have nothing particularly new or interesting to communicate. The cause of foreign Missions we trust, still continues to excite a lively interest & to engage the ardent prayers of many among us. A few have already signified their determination of becoming the heralds of the Cross to the American board, and their number we have reason to believe, will ere long be increased At least it is known that several of our number are professedly examining the subject of Foreign Missions, and the claims of the perishing heathen with serious and prayerful attention, & whilst deeply sensible that some of those who are now preparing for the ministry are bound to "Go far hence to the Gentiles" they are enquiring with much apparent solicitude each one for himself "Lord what wilt thou have me to do" Of those who have already decided this great question, it is probable one or two will leave this country the coming fall. — The cause of domestic Missions is also receiving considerable attention at present from the members of this institution. A society was formed here about a year ago under the name of "The Society of the South & West" whose professed object it is to collect information respecting the spiritual wants of those parts of the country which lie South of the Potomac, & West of the Alleghany mountains, and also by pledging their own personal services, to endeavour so far as they are able to supply these wants. We rejoice to find that the cause of domestic Mission is beginning to excite so much interest among our brethren in the seminaries at the North. We cannot but hail it as the harbinger of better things to Missions

of our country which have long "sat in darkness" as an introduction to that happy period when the wilderness and solitary place shall be glad for them, & the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose" You have doubtless heard of the resolution adopted a few months by the Missionary Society of New Jersey, raise forty thousand dollars for the erection and support of common schools, & for the religious and benevolent objects through this State Although the whole sum has not been raised a deep & lively interest has been excited in the cause much has already been effected towards the promotion of it and more it is confidently believed will be effected during the present year: At the anniversary of the Princeton Sabbath School union a few weeks since, it was unanimously resolved that the members of this union with reliance on divine aid, and with the cooperation of existing societies should cause to be formed in every neighbourhood in the State of New Jersey in which an association can be formed a Sabbath School previous to the first of January 1831 From all these efforts of Christian benevolence we trust and believe that the time is no very far distant when the means of moral & intellectual improvement will be enjoyed to a considerable extent by all the children in this State A few days since a resolution was passed by the Tract Society in this place that "with reliance on divine aid & the assistance of existing societies they will cause to be formed in every township & in every congregation that will grant permission a tract society previous to January 1831 These societies are to be formed with the view of placing one tract in each family in their respective townships monthly. During the last winter several towns in the northern parts of New Jersey have been visited with extensive and powerful revivals. The people of God have been excited to greater zeal and greater diligence in this Christian cause, the backslider has been reclaimed many precious & immortal souls have been plucked as brands from everlasting burning the progress of vice & immorality has in many instances been arrested and the whole face of society has undergone a great and desirable

Surely all these rich and undeserved favours are entitled to our warmest expressions of gratitude and praise Revivals of Religion are indeed unspeakably precious It is to them that the church must look in great measure not only for her private ministers & her missionaries to the Heathen as members then of a Society, which has for its professed object, the advancement and welfare of the Redeemer's Kingdom in the world we cannot prize too highly those seasons and those means which are so preeminently calculated to promote this glorious object. Let us therefore pray, that God would pour out his spirit in copious measure upon our churches our Sabbath Schools our Colleges and our Theological Seminaries. In the forcible language of the Prophet for Zions sake let us not hold our peace. And for Jerusalems sake let us not rest until the righteous thereof go forth as a brightness and the Salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth With sentiments of of Christian affection We subscribe ourselves yours &c.

In behalf of the Society of Inquiry on missions

John C March Cor. Sec

A. Lovel (Copyist)

Theological Seminary Andover

September 1st 1829.

Theological Seminary Princeton N. J.

Dear brethren,

It is with pleasure that we resume the correspondence which formerly existed between our respective societies, but which for a considerable time past, we regret to say, has been too much neglected and apparently almost forgotten. You are no doubt, firmly persuaded with ourselves, that many and very important benefits may result from a faithful, affectionate correspondence between Christian brethren — especially between those who are seeking the high and holy office of the Gospel Ministry. As we profess to be actuated by the same ennobling motives, to possess but one common interest, and to be seeking the same great ends, we ought undoubtedly to cultivate feelings of the most tender and affectionate regard for each others spiritual and eternal welfare. Separated as we are, by a long distance, and debarred, as we are, from any personal acquaintance, this can only be done by occasional

letters.— We know that in the primitive ages of the Church, much brotherly intercourse was in this way maintained between Christian communities, the most widely remote, and to the benefits resulting from this intercourse, we have the testimony not only of Ecclesiastical History, but also of the word of God. In the epistles of Paul, we find frequent and striking allusions to these benefits. We are there informed that the tendency of that familiar, fraternal intercourse which existed between the churches was to excite and to keep up the most kindly feelings towards each other, and to provoke each other by the noblest and best of all provocations to love and good works. And have we not reason to believe that a similar intercourse between ourselves, if conducted with the proper spirit might produce the same beneficial effects upon us? It must always be delightful to those who are engaged in building up the Redeemer's kingdom in the world, to know that there are others engaged in promoting the same great and glorious object. For such they must naturally feel a deep and lively interest, a desire to become acquainted with their sentiments and feelings, their hopes and fears, their plans and prospects in reference to this object, and although never introduced to each other in the present world, they must always regard them with peculiar favour. Such brethren, are the feelings which as members of the Society of Enquiry, and as candidates for the holy ministry, we ought mutually to cherish. It gives us pleasure to hear of the continued prosperity of the Institution with which you are connected — We cannot but hail it as an auspicious omen to the Church of Christ, that so many institutions of a similar kind are springing up in different parts of our land and that so many young men are found willing to engage in the arduous and responsible duties of the ministry. But when we consider on the other hand the rapid increase of population in our country, and the loud and often repeated demands for ministerial labour, which are constantly sounding forth from every portion of it, the prospect oftentimes appears exceedingly gloomy and sometimes almost disheartening. Were the cause of Zion dependant solely for its success upon the instrumentality which we are enabled to put forth on its behalf, we might well sink down into a state of absolute despondency. Its enemies, we know are numerous and powerful and active, whilst its friends and supporters are comparatively few; but at the same time, we need not despair. The cause of Zion is the cause of God, and although enemies may now oppose it, and difficulties surround it on every side we know that it must ultimately prevail. We have been highly gratified to learn that some of your number are expecting shortly to direct their steps towards the West. No part of our country at present affords so wide and so promising a field for ministerial exertion as that included within the great valley of the Mississippi. As we cast our eye over this extensive and interesting region, we see the fields white already to the-

harvest, but alas! the laboures are few — Surely when we consider the importance of the fields to be occupied, and the supreme importance of occupying them now whilst every thing seems to promise success, we have every reason to pray the Lord of the harvest that he will send forth labourers into his harvest. The cause of domestic Missions, we trust, is at present exciting a considerable degree of interest among the members of our Institution. A Society for the South and West, the professed object of which is to collect information respecting the spiritual wants of those portions of our country, which lie South of the Potomac and West of the Alleghany mountains. Of those who belong to it, the very great majority, it is probable, will select the field of their future labour, somewhere within these portions. In regard to Foreign Missions, we can only say that of the present first class, two individuals are expecting to leave their country for heathen lands, as soon as the American Board see fit to send them. They have already left the Institution, and are at present acting under the inspection and authority of the Board. But though we have reason to rejoice that even two have been found willing to forsake country and home and all that their hearts hold dear and to into heathen lands to proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ, how disproportionate does this number appear to the millions and tens of millions who are still sitting in darkness and in the region and shadow of death. We trust that in future years we shall be able to report to you a far greater number of able and devoted men, who will esteem it their honour and their priviledge to be instrumental in gathering ~~in~~ that portion of Gods elect, who have never heard of a Saviour, but who are still bowing down to stocks, and to stones — and we trust that from your Seminary also will hereafter go forth many who shall become watchmen upon the most distant walls of Lion, and who shall proclaim the glad news of salvation to those who have never heard it before.

In our present letter we are unable to communicate any religious intelligence which would be either new or interesting. Religion we have too much reason to fear is in a very low and languishing condition in all the region around us. As members of this Institution and Candidates for the holy ministry we ourselves have much, very much to deplore. We have great reason to be humble for our want of zeal and fidelity in the cause of that Master whom we profess to serve. — Brethren pray for us — And may God grant that both you and ourselves may be prepared for eminent usefulness here, if consistent with his holy will, but above all for immortal glory hereafter.

Yours in the best of bonds.

John C. March — 1 Cor. Sec^y

Wm. S. Sprole
Copyist

Episcopal Semr Va

Princeton Seminary August 31st 1829

Dear brethren,

Yours of Jany 1828 was duly received. Owing to an almost unpardonable inattention we have until the present time neglected to answer it. And have thus ourselves abruptly stopt that current of intelligence & christian feeling which has been wont to flow in regularly in amongst us from your institution. We however humbly implore the exercise of your clemency towards this first offence promising if forgiven, that while we remain in the seminary it shall not be repeated.

You solicit our views in reference to the American Colination Society. In answer we have to say that we perfectly concur with you in what appear to be your sentiments respecting it. We think it strange that the country generally has hitherto realized to so small a degree its value. It is a most important institution. Its objects are no less than to free our beloved country from one of the foulest blots on the page of her character, and to give her example of freedom still more ~~freedom still more~~ over the nations of the earth.

The direct positive good which it contemplates in the liberation of our degraded slave population is immense, yet even this is small when we consider the influence which through them could we send them to their native shores we might expect upon that vast & hitherto barbarous & wretched part of our race. Might we not hope that through their instrumentality, carrying with them as they ~~they~~ undoubtedly would our institutions, religious, ~~liberty~~ literary & civil, the whole of even Africa, yes brutal degraded Africa might be brought might be brought under the the influence of the Gospel of Jesus & become an extensive, intelligent, Christian republic. Nor do we think the objects of the society impracticable. When we reflect that all which it has already done, has under God, been effected through the instrumentality of but about 7000 dolls can we doubt that if the benevolence & religion of the country would arise in their might they could accomplish it.

We rejoice too that this is becoming the deliberate opinion of many leading leading characters in our country & that the attention of the public is becoming more & more alive to it. A member of this society having lately spent some time in Hartford Con. found that the hopes of its friends had never been more sanguine, & that through their exertions a new impulse had lately been given to the interest of that state in its behalf. And if the piety intelligence & [illegible] resources of N England should become

enlisted in its service, we have good reason to believe that other parts of the union would not remain inactive. And thus, God grant it may be so, the society would with the blessing of the Almighty, become one of the most powerful engines in ameliorating the condition of the human family that man has ever wielded. The times undoubtedly demand that each one of us should thoroughly investigate its claims, & if we find it to be what it professes that he should espouse its cause & advocate its interests with all our heart & soul.

We congratulate you dear dear brethren in the cause which you with us have to bless God for the prospect which not only in this but in almost every other respect the Christian world presents. The dead in sin hear the voice of the Son God & live to righteousness. The hearts of those who seek the Holy One are in many parts of our country revived. Through the preaching of the word the sweet song of Salvation is heard from many an abode which was but lately the habitation of cruelty. The stream of benevolence which for some time past has been causing many a desolate spot of earthly mould to assume the excellency of Carmel & Sharon rapidly increases. Indeed we hope that the late operations of the Bible & Tract societies announce as to no great distance the joyful dawn of Zions glory.

If then we would when we go forth we would fan the flame which God is kindling. If we would turn many to righteousness who shall be as the stars of God & who shall lift still farther on high those strains which with harps in their hands the hundred & forty & four thousand on mount Zion sing, let us in our preparatory course live near to the throne of Grace. To all it is now accessible through the blood of Christ. Its living streams will be as a well of water springing up to everlasting life — will cause our hearts to exult in the God of our Salvation & to pant for labour in the mighty field which at this time opens up before us. And thus having run our course with joy & the ministry which we have received of the Lord Jesus we shall be crowned with Paul in the realms of everlasting light & shine as the stars forever & ever

With Christian affection
Your brother in the Lord
Society of Inquiry
P. Doran 1st Asso. Sec.

David Streett
Copyist

Missionary Society of Theological
Seminary at Gettysburgh

Princeton N. J. August 1828

Dear Brethren

We would apologize for not sooner replying to your letter, dated 25 February 1828 and in doing this, would merely state, that owing to the absence of the Secretary, whose office it was to correspond with societies, located in your district of country your letter has unavoidably remained unanswered until this time, when a change of Secretaries in our society has taken place. It was gratifying to us to receive the expressions of christian friendship, contained in your letter, and, while there is so much in common, in regard to our characters, respectively as missionary societies, as well as the objects, which we thus professedly seek, to form between us a bond of union, we trust that we shall ever be ready to reciprocate and cherish feelings of interest and regard. For hardly any feature, in the christian religion, is more peculiar or more attractive, than the communion of views and pursuits and motives, that it establishes among believers, thus making the performance of their duty and the happiness to be enjoyed depend, in a great measure, on cherishing and bringing forth into exercise the best sympathies of a renewed heart. With respect to the various plans and operations, which at present are the objects toward which missionary zeal and exertion are directed, the obligations resting on christians to feel and act on behalf of those parts of our world, which are yet in the darkness of heathenism, seem to be much more thought of, and more generally acknowledged than formerly. Once professors of religion, though they might not deny the duty of spreading the gospel to all the destitute, appeared to be but little under the influence of the command to "preach the gospel to every creature," and we find even individuals, eminent for their attainments in piety, confining their purposes of benevolence and their endeavours at enlightening and saving the souls of men very much to their own land or neighbourhood. But now while the engagedness and activity of christians to advance and build up the in-

terests of religion, within their own country or town or social or domestic circle, are by no means diminished, at the same time, the church under almost whatever denomination it be viewed, or wherever situated, appears to be far more sensible of the claims, which the perishing heathen have upon its Christian charities, and the sacred obligation, imposed upon it of labouring with enterprize and assiduity, until the light of the gospel shall be diffused to every recess of superstition and infidelity, and irradiate them with the truths and salvation of Christ. The different societies, which have been formed, the plans which have been devised, and the prayers for success which have been offered shew that the hearts of believers are becoming in some degree, suitably affected with this subject and that they are willing to act on its behalf. Our design, in thus bringing to your notice the increased disposition of the Christian church to exert themselves for the spread of the gospel, is not to present to your minds, what you have not already contemplated, but merely to make the suggestion, that however private christians may be employed with this matter, and whatever aid they may contribute for missionary operations, still much depends upon ministers. Of those, who are yet indifferent to the extension of religion and the salvation of souls, are to be awakened to a sense of their importance, of the zeal of each congregation and of the whole church is to be rendered ardent and steady, and be directed to such measures, as will be blessed and ultimately prospered, it must be done by ministers. If individuals are to come forward, who will devote their labours and lives, in a proper spirit, to the cause of preaching Christ among the Gentiles, and be such men, as will engage aright in this momentous and blessed work, they must be furnished from the body of ministers, or candidates for the ministry. As to information we have not attempted to give any, since within the short limits of a single letter we could not

find room if we should make statements of facts for any thing else; and we presume, that from the papers, you must be acquainted with all the interesting facts, now before the public. We shall be much pleased to receive your communication, and hope soon to hear from you, wishing you every blessing from the Lord, we remain

affectionately yours,
Theodore Gallaudet. Second Ass Sec

A. W. Seely
Copyist

Princeton Seminary Sept. 1.
1829.

Society of Inquiry
Union Theol. Seminary
near Farmsville, Va

Dear Brethren,

Your letter of April 9th, 1828 came duly to hand. We hope that that charity which suffereth long and thinketh no evil has led you to attribute our not answering you sooner to other motives than want of esteem or affection. Be assured that these on our part remain most cordial. The true reason indeed, since we must and ought to confess it, has been inattention and negligence. We hope therefore that as in addition to our confession we promise future amendment, you will pardon us, and in obedience to the command, "render good for evil," soon favour us with another letter as replete with valuable matter as your last.

It gives us sincere pleasure to hear from various sources of the happy state of religious feeling which prevails among you, and of the value which in all the arrangements of your institution seems to be attached to its cultivation. After all, the acquisition of an ardent love for the Lord Jesus Christ, and the souls of men, with the humility meekness and gentleness of the gospel, is the most important part of our preparation for the work to which we are looking forward. For it is the man of whom it may be said, "he is full of truth, and of the Holy Ghost," that God is generally pleased to make most instrumental

in extending the dominion of Him whose right alone it is to rule.

We have the pleasure to inform you that a Society has been formed in this Seminary called the Society of the South and West, consisting at this time of 29 brethren whose present intention it is to labour, God willing, south of the Potomack river and west of the Alleghany mountains. And those of us who belong to it rejoice in the anticipation of uniting with you in causing the hills and vales of many a part of that country which is now a barren moral waste to clap their hands and shout for joy at the proclamation which, blessed be God, we hope to be commissioned to make, of liberty to the captive, the opening of the prison to them that are bound, and the acceptable year of the Lord.

But while our attention is directed to this extensive and interesting part of the vineyard, it will no doubt gladden you to hear that other parts which are also ripe for the vintage, and in danger of falling down without being gathered are not neglected. Influenced by the command "Go and teach all nations," some of our dear brethren have come to the determination, God granting them opportunity and ability, of opening the school of Christ for the reception of the poor Brahmin, Hindoo or Hottentot, or of unfurling His standard yet more gloriously among the Isles of the sea which seem indeed to wait for His law.

Two of them, Brothers Hervey and Reid, the one destined for Bombay, and the other perhaps for Greece, have a short time ago left our society, and will, soon, if God will, it may be forever, bid farewell to their native shores. Our hearts, and we trust the hearts of God's people in all the churches will follow them.

We are assured, from what we know of them, that the love of Jesus has constrained them to go. And we have no doubt that faithful to His promise, He will by shedding His sweet peace and love abroad in their soul far more than compensate the loss of all which they may have left behind. And if, in addition to this, He should make them the honoured means of bringing some, we trust He will many of the poor benighted beings among whom they expect to labour into the communion of the blessed Saviour, what additional reason will they have forever to rejoice that they devoted themselves, soul, body, and spirit to this noble cause.

Brethren, have we in prospect of imploring Ethiopia, of the perishing millions of India, of South America, in short of the whole heathen world on whom the god of this world reigns, with sincere simplicity and importunity of spirit, fallen upon our knees and said, "Lord, what in this matter will thou have me to do?" Is it not to be feared, that too many of us, without almost any inquiry at the mouth of God, come to the determination, that whatever be the duty of others, it is ours to remain at home and thus leave thousands to go down to the pit, whom we might, under God, be the means of rescuing from death. Almost all in our land have it in their power to hear enough of the gospel if embraced, to save the soul; with the poor heathen this is not the case, and his soul is as valuable in the eye of God as that of the mightiest monarch who ever swayed a sceptre over the nations.

Let us then, dear brethren, give the subject a more thorough investigation, and if we find it to be ingrafted our duty to go forthence to the Gentiles, let us in the name of God cheerfully go forth relying upon Him who hath promised, "Lo, I am with you always. My grace shall be sufficient for thee." When we consider what He has done for us, we should not hesitate to do this for Him.

And while there is "the sound of a going among the tops of the mulberry trees," and the Christian world is awaking around, let us no longer, lolling upon beds of ease, say "a little more sleep, a little more slumber, a little more folding of the hands to sleep." But let us up and be doing, let us gird on our armour, and with shouting and the voice of the trumpet follow to victory the Captain of salvation. And should we be called in the conflict even to pour out our blood as a sacrifice, this may as heretofore through the influence of the Spirit prove the seed of the church, and thus be instrumental in adorning the brow of Him "whom not having seen we love," with honours more lasting than the laurels of earth.

Accept another assurance of our esteem and love.
And may the God of missions be with you.

Society of Inquiry
per
Peter Donan
cor. Sec.

R. H. Smith
Sec. pro.

To the Society of Inquiry on Missions -
Relief Divinity Hall - Paisley - Scotland -

Theological Seminary
Princeton N.J.
Dec. 1st 1829.

Dear Brethren

It becomes us to apologize for our seeming neglect of your letter, which we deem both interesting as to its matter & affectionate in its spirit, inexcusable negligence in not answering it at an earlier time justly attaches to our Secretary for the last year; we therefore waive right this want of attention on our part in as much as your letter was the opening of a new correspondence & we were fearful that from our long delay, you would infer that we were not favourably disposed to such a correspondence, but be assured, the case is far otherwise, we heartily thank you for ~~you for~~ your interesting communication, and we hope, we shall not be disappointed in regarding it as the earnest of future favours of a similar character For with feelings of Christian affection, we hail you as Brethren & fellow labourers in the cause of our Divine Master.

Your letter dear brethren gave us the first information of your having separated from the established Church of Scotland & we rejoice that her civil establishment & her law & practice of patronage, were the only grounds of that separation, for while on the one hand we deplore the least infringment upon the peace & unity of the Church, where it can be possibly & consistantly avoided, — yet on the other hand, we rejoice at the progress & the triumphs of the principles that lead you to take the step you have, as to the practice of patronage it is certainly inconcistant with the free exercise & enjoyment of that acknowledged right which every man has to freedom of conscience in religious matters, for when a congregation has not the liberty of choosing its own pastor so far as his influence & pulpit instructions are concerned, this right is infringed — & though it have not the cruelty & bloody character of the acts of uniformity, it yet resembles them in some of its most objectionable features, & Scotland should be the last to tollerate anything that bears a resemblance, to the acts of uniformity — because she has been taught their unchristian character — yes their diabolical character

in the loss of "men of whom the world was not worthy" & although experiance is sometimes a cruel yet it is always a faithful instructor. As a legitimate descendant of the kirk of Scotland the Presbyterian church in this country feels a lively interest in her welfare & it would afford us inexpressible pleasure to see her rising in her strength, & shaking off the shackles by which she is entire trammeled & we hope that the alliance of which you speak, entered into by a highly respectable party in her communion, to effect the abolition of Patronage may prove successful in promoting the interest of the church, for surely such an alliance has a better claim to the term holy than some others that have impiously usurped it. We are truly happy to hear, that the principle of Catholic communion is gaining ground among the more enlightened parts of Europe, the spirit of the age in which we live demand the adoption and the practice of more enlightened & liberal principles & yet we can see the signs that mark the coming of a still more glorious age, although the 19th century sheds upon the world a light from heaven, yet we live only in the twilight of receding darkness, & the dawning of a brighter day. Prophesy portells of glory yet to come & of triumphs yet to be achieved over darkness, Idolatry & Antichrist that now stalk abroad on the earth — for the Heathen & the utter-most parts of the Earth are promised to our master & our Saviour. As to the principle of national establishments in religion, while the old world affords the melancholy evidence of their baleful influence & evil tendency in regard to the best interest of the church, the experiance of the new world affords the best test, not only the feasibility, but also of the expediancy, the entire propriety & happy effect, of absolute Ecclesiastical independance on the state, It is one of the wisest provisions in our political economy & one which perhaps more than other more external circumstances has caused our church to thrive under the smiles of the great head of the church & under the genial showers of his grace & it was dear Brethren with no ordinary emotion, that we read your allusion to this happy circumstance in our happy country — we are indeed untrammeled by the state, we are indeed free from political hindrances, But while we rejoice on this account, it becomes us to be humbled on account of our misimprovement of those privileges, by which we have

permitted ourselves to be trammelled & disturbed by a fear a fear more fatal for than the state, but our hope is in God, who is our righteousness & strength.

These great principles dear Brethren on which you tell us, your Synod has acted from the beginning are becoming more & more popular, they are fast gaining the ascendancy over prejudice & error, their victories are multiplying & we hail you dear Brethren as & among the most precious of their trophies, we would therefore in the language of brotherly affection, of congenial feeling & of christian sympathy bid you "God's Speed" go on in the strength of him, "who is head over all things to the church," & may the spirit of all grace be & forever abide with you — It is with pleasure dear Brethren that we can unite our testimony with yours, that the right of ministerial responsibility is beginning to be more & more felt — both by those who are fulfilling & by those who desire the office of a Bishop & this instead of keeping back or dampening the ardour of our young aspirants, to the self denying service of our master, seems to give to them a new & more holy impulse & although we have still to pray that the Lord of the harvest would send forth yet more labourers, yet blessed be his name, he is raising up & preparing many of the youth of our country for the service of his church. The numerous candidates now flocking to our Theological Seminaries are the blessed fruites of the late revivals with which our church has been favoured. The missionary spirit is yet in our midst, Several of our number will devote themselves to the cause of foreign missions. The Missionary spirit is beginning to be more correctly appreciated & to be regarded as the true ministerial spirit — as the real apostolic spirit, so that the settled pastor although he execute not the office must yet possess the spirit of the devoted missionary, accompanying this letter you will receive the last report of the board of commissioners for foreign missions, from which you can gather the extent of their operations.

As to revivals, our base ingratitude & our sins against light & love have not altogether grieved away the holy Spirit, but his blessed effusions are now experienced in various parts of our land, It has been thought advisable by some of the most judicious & devoted friends of revivals that they should not be so publically & formily noticed in the public papers as heretofore, such notice is deemed of doubtful if not of injurious tendency, we can not therefore with any correctness ascertain the exact state of revivals in our country but it is believed

they have not declined, as the silence of the press has led many who were ignorant of the cause erroneously to imagine But that our churches still present an encouraging aspect our Church & our country have been highly favoured in the those visits of mercy from on high, surely we have great cause to be thankful, but if possible still greater cause to be humble for Oh what a nation of sins & privileges we are, for it appears that the more mercy God manifests to us as a people, the more bold & heaven daring are our sins, While his blessed Spirit is poured out upon the people & the truth by his application of it pricking thousands to the heart, The arch enemy boldly yet openly yet insidiously installs in the public mind the venom of Infidelity. In the city of New York where there is so much faithful preaching of the gospel, an infidel press has been established from which are continually issuing books & tracts inculcating sentiments of a pernicious to the church & subversive of the free institutions of our country but it is in vain to contend with God, he has determined to save sinners & all the emissaries of satan can not in the least defeat that determination, he has promised to de-fend his church & the gates of hell shall not prevail against it, to Him therefore, we look for victory & glory.

Doubtless dear Brethren you have heard of the late resolution of the American Bible society to supply within two years from last May, the whole United States with a copy of the sacred scriptures, so that every family shall possess the oracles of the living God. The brave effort of the resolution on the public mind was most happy in stimulating & rousing the friends of the cause, to more active exertion on its behalf The author of the second volume seems to be opening the hearts of his people & disposing them to give freely of their substance in aid of this great work. The Roman Catholics are making vigorous attempts to extend their church in this country. The Pope has been sending many of his Jesuitical emissaries to the southern & western states, especially to our new settlements, furnished with ample funds for establishing seminaries, periodicals &c The general assembly of our church has lately established a new Theological Seminary at Pitsburg Pensylvania called the western Theological Seminary. It has now one Prof & an assistant teacher & a respectable number of

number of students & will shortly have other Profrs.

An unhappy state of things now exist with regard to Georgia & the Indians within her bounds, Georgia wishes them to remove beyond the Mississippi river & in order to force them to this measure, she has determined to extend her jurisdiction over them, to which they will not submit

The circumstances of the case have excited the sympathy of christians in all parts of the country. The general government has not as yet taken any decided step in the matter, but it is the opinion of our worthy President that Georgia has the right to extend the laws over them The subject has occasioned much able discussion in the public prints. The state of Alabama is in the same predicament with regard to her indians. May God secure to each their rights & stay the hand of oppression. During the last cession of Congress a great number of memorials from all parts of our country, signed by the most respectable citizens of each place, was presented to that body requesting the repeal of those acts which require the transportation of the Mail & the opening of Post offices on the sabath, it was refered to a committee who reported unfavourably & the whole matter was without further cerimony dismissed. The report of the committee did them no credit, — it has been reviewed & its character exposed in almost every periodical in the country. The evil still continues but we hope that public opinion, the only human despot that should wield a septer will before long demand & obtain what their numerous memorials failed to secure. The subject of Temperance is now agitated in all parts of our land, the tide of public sentiment, begins to set heavy against the evil, which together with slavery like two master spirits from the infernal pit have held in more than Egyptian bondage our boasted independance. The triumphs of Temperance societies have been steady constant & complete almost beyond credibility. The prospect of the abolition of slavery as far as we may judge from public feeling are brightning every day. The want of room forbids our saying more. We hope that in point of delay, we may not be dealt with as we have dealt with you. Brethren farewell may the wisdom of God direct you & his grace be ever with you, Amen. In behalf of the society of inquiry on missions

December 3rd 1839 Chas. C. Tatiaferro copyist Saml. G. Winchester

To the
Edinburg association of theological Students
in aid of the diffusion of christian knowledge
Edinburg
Scotland

Theological Seminary, Princeton N.J.
December 1st 1829

Dear Brethren

We have received your letter dated Dec 1828 & sincerely thank you for the various information which it afforded us; & we are sorry that we cannot always give you an adequate return of interesting news. A desire to be acquainted with all that is going on in the Redeemers Kingdom is natural to the mind that views the interests of that kingdom identified with his own. It is one of the peculiar characteristic features of the christian religion, that it is catholic not only in its interest, but also in its nature. It is universal in its exercises of the mind & heart. Hence that sympathy that exists among all christians - seeing that he is a member of that great body of which Christ is the Head, every christian feels more or less interest in the rest - & seeing that his own existence as a christian depends on the Great Head, just as his natural existence depends on the seat of vitality, he necessarily & from the nature of his new moral constitution, feels an interest in all that concerns that Great Head, which is Christ. Therefore, Dear Brethren, though "our bodies may far off remain, we are still one in heart", for we are joined in one Spirit to our Head. What affects us, therefore, as christians, must be interesting to you. To our country, you remark, it is natural to look, as to the great arena of an awfully imposing strife between the powers of righteousness & sin. God does indeed seem to have selected this country, as the theatre for displaying, in a most signal manner, his power & glory. Here where is guaranteed, to every man by the charter of his rights & liberties, the free exercise of conscience in matters of religion - here, where no denomination is dependent on the state in any manner or degree - here, too, where every man, is defended, in his worship, as far as it may be, from all molestations & hindrance, here it is

that the truth of God may be said to stand by its own strength & here it is, therefore, that the nature & efficacy of that truth is to be tested - No weapons are used for its defence & propagation, but those that are spiritual; which are indeed mighty to the pulling down of the strongholds of Satan. God's truth is omnipotent, because it carries in its bosom all the power of his Spirit & it must ultimately prevail - Here where the government recognises & requires no religion, high-handed rebellion against God, has thrown off the mask, which in most other countries it is forced to assume & comes out openly to the contest, the enemies of God boldly assert & strenuously defend their sentiments, they avow their enmity to religion & the Bible, & thus here in this nation, which was born in a day, the contest becomes a fair & open one, so that, here, you may witness the effects of God's Spirit poured out upon the people & imagine that it was another pentecost, if not with Peter's preaching, yet with Peter's success - And you may but turn your eyes & behold reacted the scene at Pilate's bar, marked with all the malignity that glared upon the visage of the Jewish Murderers. Yes in our Metropolis. The city of New-York - you may visit the sanctuary of the Lord, & but a few stops will take you to an assembly of Deists &c &c, met to worship what they call the God of nature - mingling with their blasphemies, the rites of Pagan superstition. In that city, an infidel press has been established from which are sent forth New Editions of all the standard infidel writers, which are sent over the country & sold at public auctions to the highest bidder - Not content with this, they make use of that instrument, which, though it is believed, was first used by infidels, yet which is now used with such amazing success by the friends of God - I mean the Tract - Yes they are circulating tracts, distributing them on the various steam-boats &c, wherever they possibly can, and, what would cause us to smile, if it were not our duty to weep, they have even sent a Missionary, as they term him, to disseminate their tracts, books & sentiments. The Universalists are diligently employed in giving currency to their tenets exciting the hope of Eternal life, by giving the sure poison of Eternal Death - The Unitarians, because they assail all that is precious & desirable in the character of Christ, are his enemies & are busily at work. The Roman Catholics are untiring in their efforts to extend their Church - They boast of their increase of number & are continually crying out "persecution". The Pope has lately sent a great many Jesuits, to the New Settlements in our, Western & Southern States, furnished with ample funds to aid in accomplishing their object. Thus you see, Dear Br

-thren, that this country is indeed destined to be the arena of a most awfully imposing strife between Hell & Heaven. But the present State of things shows, that God is for us & if so, who can be against us" We continue to be blessed with revivals of religion in various parts of our country. God is raising up & preparing many of our youth for the service of the Church, & what is a glorious feature in these revivals, is that young men, our most promising youth, who are in a course of literary training, are in happy numbers, the subjects of them, who almost invariably devote themselves to the Holy Ministry. Hence the most of our Theological Students had in view, before their conversion, a professional life. Revivals of religion are not now so formally & regularly noticed in the public papers, as formerly, because it is deemed, if not injurious to the cause, at least inexpedient, which has lead many to suppose that they were not so frequent as formerly. But it is believed they have not diminished. The North, South, East & West of our country are still experiencing the reviving influences of the Spirit of God.

Missionary zeal is yet alive among us; correct opinions as to the true character of the Missionary Spirit are more & more entertained; so that a true Missionary Spirit is deemed an essential qualification of a faithful & devoted Minister of Christ. Several of our number will go to the Heathen. Four Missionaries were lately ordained at Boston, two of whom were from this Seminary, & will go both to Bombay.

It is with great pleasure, Dear Brethren, that we have it in our power, though, perhaps, you have already heard it, that the American Bible Society, at its last meeting, in May last, resolved, in reliance on Divine aid to supply every family in the United States, with a copy of the Sacred Scriptures, within the space of two years from the date of the resolution. Oh! what a glorious record in the annals of benevolent exertion, & oh! what a still more glorious event will be its accomplishment, in the history of Christian enterprise.

In October last two Missionaries, sailed for China, one of whom was sent out by the Seamen's friend Society to labour among the seamen in Canton & the vicinity. Accompanying this letter you will receive the last report of the board of Commissioners for foreign Missions. also the last report of the Home Missionary Society - of the American Bible Society & of the American Tract Society.

The attention of almost the whole of our country is now directed to the evil of intemperance. The christian public were never excited on the subject than at present. Societies for the suppression of this vice are multiplying in every direction. Their success in controlling public sentiment [illegible]

to be almost incredible. Their beneficial effects, in many places, are already visible, beyond all doubt; in whole sections of our country the effect has been the reduction of 2/3 of the quantity of ardent Spirits drunk in one year. This monster has been spreading over our land & laying waste its fairest portions & while we have been glorying in our free institutions, this has been threatening the destruction of our liberties.

The profanation of the Sabbath has long pained the hearts of the friends of our Lord & has caused them to form an association to promote its better observance, but especially has its legally authorized profanation drawn forth a general complaint from all parts of the country. During the last session of Congress, numerous memorials from every place of note in the United States, signed by the most respectable citizens, were presented, requesting the repeal of those acts which required the opening of post offices & the transportation of the Mail on the Sabbath. The committee to whom the matter was referred, reported unfavorably. But the reasons assigned were not such as to satisfy any candid & unprejudiced mind, & as public opinion must prevail, so respectable & plain & unanimous an expression of it, cannot be rejected with impunity. There is no doubt, therefore, but that the object will be accomplished.

The systematic distribution of Tracts has been practised with great success in many places - that is, furnishing every family monthly with a tract, as far as they will receive them, for a more full & interesting account of which, see the Report of the American Tract Society accompanying this letter.

A considerable excitement now exists in the public mind with regard to the unhappy differences between Georgia & the Indians within her territory. Georgia is desirous that the Indians should retire beyond the Mississippi river, which they are unwilling to do; & in order to force them, Georgia has determined to extend her laws over them. But such a measure would be unjust, unchristian & ungenerous. The situation of the poor Indians, had elicited the sympathies of Christians every where. The public press has ably borne its testimony against the contemplated measure on the part of Georgia. The President of U.S. is of opinion that Georgia has no right to extend her jurisdiction over them.

Doubtless, Dear Brethren, you are aware of the state of civilization among the Cherokee Indians. They have a written language; they publish a weekly paper which is taken in various parts of our country; one of which, for the sake of curiosity, we

send you with this letter. They have a written constitution, courts of justice & trial by Jury. Several Missionaries are labouring successfully among them. The paper you will perceive is partly in English & partly in Cherokee. The Indians generally in our country, afford an interesting & important field for missionary exertion. The Editor & all concerned in the publication of the Phenix are native Cherokees.

The Sabbath School cause continues to flourish. This is one of the most important of all our benevolent Institutions. It has proved the Nursery of great piety & much Missionary effort. Most of the Missionaries now in the field, were nurtured in Sabbath Schools. Bible Classes, which are a step higher, as regards the age of the pupils, are now considered an indispensable part of ministerial duty. They are highly blessed of God, in being the means of revivals of religion — And infant Schools, wh, are a step lower, are fast gaining upon the attention & benevolence of ~~the~~ Christians generally. There is, in these embryo Seminaries, so much to interest & stir up the kinder feelings of the parental bosom & so much to commend itself to the pious heart, that they cannot fail to be successful. Dear Brethren, let us hear from you shortly; & may "the grace of the Our Lord Jesus Christ, be with your Spirit, Amen" !!

In the name of the Society of Inquiry on Missions

—Saml G. Winchester

Stonewall

To the Theological Seminary
at New Brunswick N.J.

March 30. 1830

Princeton, Theological Seminary.

Dear Brethren

We read your communication of Dec. 5th and cordially reciprocate the feelings of friendship it contains. We rejoice in continued prosperity, and of the prosperity of the Institution with which you are connected, for these we trust are among the precious interests of the Redeemers Kingdom. Of this Kingdom we humbly hope Grace hath made us members, and for it we have covenanted to labor and pray. All its members and especially those who like us, are looking forward to the work of the Holy ministry we desire to [illegible] with paternal affection and hope now and ever to be benefited by their counsels and prayers.

You speak of the indications which are abroad in the world, that the Kingdom of Christ is about to be built up in its Glory. The political commotions of the Eastern world to which you allude, are silently working the empire of superstition and preparing the way for the spread and triumph of the Gospel. The influence which the Cabinet of England now likely to have in the Government of Greece, gives additional reason to hope that this country so recently rescued from the grasp of despotism, and the cause of which is about to be visited with the blessings of the Gospel of peace. Another enterprise which we are permitted to witness gives still firmer ground for encouragement. We allude to the unparalleled exertions to disseminate the Scriptures

This spirit of benevolence, which is endeavoring to carry the Bible to every nation and kindred and tongue and people under the whole Heavens, we believe remind its impulse from on high and will not be in vain. God will honor his word. He hath said it shall not return unto Him void. Although we see little immediate effect follow this circulation of the scriptures, we

believe in the hands of a gracious Providence, it is only a preparatory measure, intermediary to some mighty movement among the nations, which shall change the aspect of the world, and bring the truths of God into such contact with the minds of men as shall result in its ultimate universal prevalence.

We have sometimes purpose apprehensions for our country, lest vice and infidelity should prove its ruin. But we believe, though the enemy may and probably will come into our land like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him. We think that even now we can see that God is raising up such a standard. We can see it in the thousands and tens of thousands of children who are learning the most simple and practical truths of our holy religion in Infant and S. Schools

But a clearer indication than any we have noticed is of the approaching Glory of the Church is seen in the frequent Revivals of Religion which distinguish the day in which we live. From these precious ingatherings from the world have come forth some of our most faithful ministers of the Gospel, and most of the devoted Missionaries who have gone to the Heathen When these Revivals shall increase in frequency and power then shall be fulfilled the prediction that a nation Shall be born in a day. It has been thought by some that these profound seasons are becoming less frequent in the churches. This has been inferred from the fact that fewer notices of them have appeared in print. But various reasons can be assigned for this. Many friends to revivals think it unwise to make them public. In some part of our country the frequency of their occurrence has abated that spirit of inquiry and surprise which formerly attended the announcement of the fact that in such a town many were pricked to the heart and exclaiming what shall we do to be saved.

These we suppose are some of the reasons why religious Periodicals contain a smaller number of such communications than they did a few years since. We learn however by private correspondence of members of our Society that our churches are still visited with these times of refreshing from the Lord. We recently heard of one town in the western part of the state of N. York

where were numbered 400 hopeful conversions and the work was extending into the adjacent county. A member of our Society recind a letter a few days since in which nine towns were mentioned, on the borders of N. Hampsh and Vermont in which it was stated, there was evidently a work of the Holy Spirit. An other member of our Society was informed by a correspondent, of twenty Towns in Massachusets, upon which from the windows of Heaven the Lord was raining down the rich blessings of his grace. Several of these Towns were a short time since under Unitarian influence We might mention other similar accounts but these are sufficient. Having not only the promises beloved Brethren, but these encouragements in the Providence of God, let us look up continualy to the Lord of the harvest that He would send forth more laborers into the harvest, and also, that he would graciously grant us the teaching of the Holy Spirit that we may be prepare to go forth at this interesting era of the world, and be wise in the work of winning souls to Christ.

We want of faith and prayer, in the present age. Men who will go forth to raise the standard of Piety where religion is fallen into a form. Men who will not count their lives dear unto themselves, but will be will be willing to live anywhere and die anywhere that the Redeemers kingdom may be built up. That these considerations may suitably affect our hearts and yours, and that we may all have that preparation of heart which is from the Lord is the desire and prayer of your

Friends and Brethren in the Lord

In behalf of Society

J. F. Shelps. Cor. Sec.

Wm H. Thomson. Copyist

To Mr Thompson
Miss. to the Indians

Princeton Seminary July 21-1830

Dear Brother

We were gladdened by hearing a few months ago through a letter received from your station by Dr. Brown of the Sem. of your health and prospects of success in the station which has to you as a watchman of Zion been assigned. We trust that from what your eyes have already been permitted to behold of the marvelous arm of the great head of the ch. you do not regret having but your cause thither. On the ocean of real enjoyment we presume it makes but little difference whether as prophets of the Lord we are situated. He whose bosom glows with love to Jesus and to souls and whose willing feet in swift obedience move to such an impulse in a happy man by the side of Africa's burning fount and on the cold dreary mountain of greenland as much as in the midst of the most refined and intelligent christian society. And as dying grace is given in a dying hour it we believe that He in whom dwells all the fulness of the godhead bodily does often diffuse such a quiet peace and joy through the soul of His devoted missionary as does most amply compensate them for all and for more than compensate for all the lands and houses the father and mother & brothers & sisters he has left behind. And as many others have done we trust you can from your own happy experience subscribe with all your heart to the truth of the statement. As for real usefulness however lightly the great politician the pride of whose heart has so beclouded his spiritual vision that he cannot see the true nature of man may esteem the souls of the poor red man of the forest that God who appreciates all things according to their true character sets as high a value no doubt upon him as upon that of that of the white man and he who has been so wise as to win it to the Lord Jesus will not meet with a less reward than if its tabernacle had been of a lighter complexion, but on the contrary with a greater in proportion to the degree in which he made sacrifice to obtain his object. We as well as all the christian world around us deeply sympathize with you in your present solicitude with regard to the fate of your nation should they be compelled to remove as there is alas to great reason at present to conclude it is to be feared that much of what has been done in evangelizing and civilizing them will be to a considerable degree lost the certainty of this we think is perhaps to firmly believe for as the dispersion of Gods ancient people in itself a calamity

was made instrumental in disseminating more extensively a knowledge of him in whose presence idols are a nonety and to be thus preparing the world for the rising of the sun of righteousness or that upon his appearance he did not dazzle and stupefy but sweetly enlighten and comfort so then reward should it be permitted to take place although an event lowering in its aspect may yet be overruled to the for more extensive diffusion of the blessed privileges which they enjoy among other tribes which as yet comparatively sit in the region and shadow of death. Let us then go courageously forward in the discharge of our duty ~~con~~ committing the keeping of them and our souls to him who is able to save us. And He who throughout the world planteth and plucketh up who directs the great currents of animate and inanimate being can and no doubt will make even the wrath of their oppressors to promote that great end for which occasion was given to the song of the morning stars and the shouting of the sons of God viz his own declarative glory

Whatever the result may be our reward will be proportioned not so much to what we have effected as to what we have sincerely desired and endeavored to effect. We firmly believe that the bosom of christian philanthropy has not glowed with sufficient interest in behalf of their spiritual welfare.

It has not been revealed to us that this race is to be feeled from the earth. We know not that any such decree has gone forth yet should the present or at most but one or two generations be benefited by our labours among them we shall have lived for very far otherwise than in vain

As to the state of missionary feeling at present among us we trust there are many the daily outgoings of whose hearts before a blood-sprinkled mercy seat testify that the soul of the poor heathen is precious to him. And some we have reason to believe how many we are not yet certain have in the generous order of elevated christian benevolence in secret places solemnly devoted their bodies souls and spirits to the cause of God and mans salvation ~~we~~ We trust ~~that~~ the many of those who in this sacred vac have preceded them the name of whom will by the heavens heart be cherished in fond remembrance

and the glory of whose path will shed a light in the paths of all future missionary they will ever in this world never regret their decision. And hereafter when the great books shall have been closed forever and the nations of them that are saved shall walk in the light of the countenance of Him who sits upon the throne high and lifted up should they find themselves surrounded by some of the once poor degraded savages among whom they had laboured on this little footstool of the Almighty in beauty and glory as the angels of God shining as the sun in the firmament brought hither through their instrumentality it is certain they will not sure ~~they~~ ~~are~~ if any sight can be better calculated than this to give unfeeled energy to the halelujahs of a glorified spirit ~~no re~~

We remain dear brother your affectionately in the bonds of the gospel

Society of Inquiry on Missions per P. Donan

It needs scarcely be added that we should be happy as soon as convenient to hear from you

We have the pleasure to inform you that Mr A. Alexander and Miss Mary Miller have lately become pious and joined the church. Should Adison direct his attention to the ministry and particularly the subject of missions understanding as he does so many languages of the East he may yet prove a great blessing to that extensive and important missionary field. These however are but surmisings as the course which he will take is yet altogether uncertain. You have no doubt heard me this that Bombay has been allotted to brothers Harvey and Read as their field of labor. Brother Read was first marked out for the Sandwich Islands from his home however for Harvey he earnestly solicited that he might be permitted to occupy the same field which was at last granted

Wm C. White Copyist

Peter Donan
Secretary

To the Western Theol. Sem. Allegany Town.

Theol. Sem. Princeton Sept. 1. 1830

Dear brethren.

With sincere pleasure we rec'd & read your interesting communication, dated the 1st of March last. We regard it as a fact of the most cheering & encouraging nature, that, in the very infancy of the Institution with which you are connected, the Students formed themselves into an Association for the purpose of making inquiry upon the subject of Missions. We shall consider it a privilege to hold correspondence with Societies of this kind. We are happy in the assurance that your Sem. is blessed with the benignant smiles of heaven. Many of us are personally acquainted with those excellent men whose instructions you now enjoy & we are persuaded, not only that the vast interests of the great work have a deep lodgment in their hearts, but also that they are actuated by a benevolence, which knows no limit, but the limits of the inhabited world. And we trust their labours will be employed, for the training of many who shall go forth with the spirit which animated the great Apostle to the Gentiles, "not counting their lives dear unto themselves, so that they may finish their course with joy, & the ministry which they have rec'd of the Lord Jesus, to testify the Gospel of the grace of God." We appreciate your anxiety for the Western States, & the tribes of American Indians. In all your endeavours to supply them with the water of life, you have our most fervent wishes, & sincere prayers to Almighty God for your success. We feel for the spiritual necessities of the promiscuous & growing population of the West. Our hearts also yearn with compassion for the degraded & oppressed Africans in the bosom of this Christian land, & for the injured Aborigines of this country. At the same time we cannot, & would not if we could, resist the pathetic appeal of 500.000.000 in foreign countries, who are at this moment stretching out their imploring hands to the benighted land, & beseeching us for the blessings of the Gospel. In fact the field is the world. And it is a question of no ordinary interest, & which commences freely to the conscience of every Theol. Student. "In what part of this extensive field is it my duty to labour?" "Where can I, with the abilities which God has given me, do most for the honor of his name & for the restoration of the human race to renewed allegiance to their Maker, & to the Eternal joys of his presence?" The decision of this question is often pregnant with consequences, of which the limited powers of man can form no just estimate. (The circumstances of many candidates for the ministry are such that it is manifestly not their duty to become foreign Missionaries.) May we all be guided in this important matter by the Holy Spirit. It has not to our knowledge been publicly announced, & perhaps you have not seen it stated, that there is a new & interesting field of Missionary labour at the Marquesas Isls. in the Pacific ocean. The Rev. Mr. Stewart Mis. to the Sandwich Isl. called there on his

return to this country & conversed with the high priest, who told him, that his people had heard much about the labours of Missionaries at the Sand. Is. that although he believed in the existence of many Gods, he was persuaded, that the God of the Sand. Is. was greater than any other; and earnestly requested that Missionaries might be sent to the Marquesas Isls. The language of these Isls Mr. Stewart states, differs so little from that of the Sand. Isls. that persons, who are acquainted with the latter, can speak the former with fluency in a very few days. He conversed without difficulty with the high priest. There is another interesting fact, which is not perhaps generally known, viz. that the Bible translated into the Chinese language, has been carried to Japan, & examined by learned men, who pronounce it a good book & highly worthy to be circulated.

We have just recd. a letter from the Sand. Isls, written by Mr. Gulick, formerly of this Sem. which states that the Missionaries of the Romish Ch. in those Isls are prohibited from holding public meetings, but, it is supposed, they continue to hold them privately. It is ascertained, that after a few ceremonies, persons are admitted to the Communion of the Ch. & receive across. They are then instructed, that to forsake the community they have joined, is the unpardonable sin. The letter states, that the Books of Gen. Exodus. Luke, acts of the Apostles & many small Parts have been translated, & are now in the hands of the people. The Epistle to the Rom. part of the Psalms & the Epistles to the Cor. will soon be through the press. In reference to the state of religion in this ~~place~~ region of country, we have little to communicate which will cheer your hearts. Few places in our vicinity have been blessed with a copious outpouring of the H. S. for several years past. Great efforts have been made to promote the cause of Temp. & of S. Schools; and we have occasion for devout gratitude to God, that these efforts have been attended with a good degree of success. Accessions to the number of communicants in our Churches have been very small. We are however able to say, that the Lord has recently given us the most decisive proof, that he has not entirely forsaken our State. Three or four weeks since, special indications of the presence of the H. S. were manifest among the Students of Bloomfield Academy. The whole number is about 70 or 80, nearly ½ of them are professing Christians & candidates for the ministry. Several, in the judgement of charity, have recently been brought to accept of Christ as he is offered in the Gospel, & to rejoice in the hope of Eternal life. A letter recd. this morn. states, that almost every Student in the Academy is under serious impressions. A female school in the place & several S. Schools are partakers of this rich blessing, & it is extending in the congregation.

In behalf of the Soc. of Inquiry on Missions,

Festus Hanks Ass. Sec.

Woodward Transcriber)

Highbury Academy. Near London

1835

Dear Brethren, Theol. Seminary Princeton N.J. March 1

Permit us as fellow labourers in the work of preparation for the holy Ministry, to greet you with our respectful & affectionate salutation to proffer you our correspondence, & to invite henceforth an occasional interchange of christian sentiments & feelings - All Christians tho' many are one body in Christ & every one members one of another - Although we are widely separated from you, & probably all of us personally unknown to you, still we regard you not as strangers & foreigners, but as brethren & fellow citizens of that kingdom which is righteousness and peace & joy in the Holy Ghost -

Influenced by this sentiment the "Society of Inquiry on Missions" has long cherished & recently expressed by an unanimous vote, a desire to hold with you the correspondance now commenced, with the hope that it will acceptable to you & profitable both to yourselves & us

In giving you an account of the present state of religion in our Seminary, we are compelled to say & we would say it with penitence and deep sorrow of heart, that our walk & conversation indicate that we are fallen into a state of lukewarmness - Our hearts are not full of divine truth & love & zeal for the honour of Christ as they once were & as they should be in view of the glorious hope & sacred office to which we look forward - In respect to many of us we have reason to fear that the religion of Christ, does not habitually dwell in us & rule in & over us as a fixed & settled principle of action, so as to cause the influence of our christian character & profession to be felt by each other & by the world as it ought to be felt - We pray that we may be revived. You will not dear Brethren, be indifferent to our case - We hope you will remember us where alone such remembrance will be availing - We have abundant reason to bless God for what he has done for us in days that are past. Yea we bless God for

what he is still doing for us- for this Institution and for the churches in our land. We have only to mourn that the devotion of our hearts & lives does not better correspond to the greatness & richness of the blessing bestowed on us. This Seminary was established in 1810 by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian church in the United States. It is wholly under the control of this body- It was founded in their prayers. It is nurtured by their alms. The number of students on our catalogue the present year is 120. The whole number of students who have been & are now connected with it is above six hundred. ——— Theological schools are increasing among us both in numbers & usefulness The Presbyterian Church has six, of which this is the principal. The Orthodox Congregationalists in the New England states, have three all which are in a flourishing condition. The number of students now in a course of professional study in these nine schools of Theology is estimated at about five hundred & fifty— The prescribed course of study in all of them embraces three years.

The Presbyterian church in the U. S. has 19 Synods 92 Presbyteries- above 2070 churches, 1392 Ministers, & licentiates 205- members 262. 816. 40 Ministers are Presidents of colleges, or Profs in Theol. Seminaries. The Congregationalists who are in correspondence with the Presbyterians, number about 11.000 churches 900 ministers & 120.000 communicants- You will perceive from these statistics that we have nearly one thousand churches destitute of the regular ministrations of the word, & more than this- large portions of our southern & western states are emphatically Missionary ground- with few or no churches organized, & our aggregate population is increasing at the rate of one thousand per day- How these destitute churches & this increase of population are to be furnished with the means of grace we know not- The increase of licentiates is not proportionate to the increase of the wants of the church— in our own country, leaving the claims of Heathen lands entirely out of the question

Our prayer is that the Lord of the harvest will

raise up from among us & qualify & send forth many faithful labourers into his vineyard.

In respect to the general state of religion in the U. S. we can say that it is encouraging. We trust that the prevalence of vital piety & christian exertion is increasing. It has pleased the great Head of the church during the last & several preceding years, to grant to many of our congregations precious effusions of the holy Spirit, by which thousands have been convicted of sin & unrighteousness, & converted unto God. We are aware that the "American Revivals" are a subject on which you feel a lively & anxious interest. It would give us pleasure to speak more at length on this subject - but our present limits will allow of only two or three remarks —

It is a fact worthy of notice, that these revivals have almost universally commenced in the church & that they have rarely occurred in any place while the church & professing christians in that place were lukewarm & full of the spirit of the world. Very extraordinary means are not resorted to, to produce them. They have generally been originated in the solemn preaching of the word - in pastoral visiting, & faithful personal conversation, & in special meetings held by the church or individual members of it for prayer. It often happens after a season of revival has commenced in a congregation without the use of any public or visible means in order to it, that it comes to be known at last that a few members of the church full of the Holy Ghost & of faith had been in the habit of privately associating for prayer, for this special object: & sometimes in the history of one of these seasons of refreshing, we are told that the cause or rather the only human means used in order to it, was, that a little band of pious females, had been in the habit for some months previously of meeting together statedly to pray for a revival of religion.

these seasons come on & pass away in a calm & quiet manner. There is a shaking among the dry bones there is much fear & trembling, & rejoicing - but it is attended with nothing like noise or enthusiasm. As the fruits of these seasons from 30 to an 150 are sometimes added to a church in the course of a year. They are often characterized by this fact viz. that a large proportion of those who during their influence become the hopeful & happy subjects of divine grace are young persons.

Among the enterprises of a public nature that now engross the attention of the religious community are the following - The distribution of the bible - the suppression of intemperance - promotion of the better observance of the sabbath, & the promotion of sabbath schools - Each of these enterprises is going forward under the direction & auspices of a national society which combines & directs the energies of a great number of local auxiliaries. The blessing of God seems to give them success. The American Bible Society at its last anniversary (in May 1829) in reliance on divine aid, resolved to supply all the destitute families of the U. S. with the Holy Scriptures within the space of two years. We are happy to say that this good work is going forward. Several states have been explored & every destitute family that was willing to receive a bible supplied. Many more are found without the bible than were supposed to be without it when the resolution was adopted. We pray that the work of supply may go on - We believe that by the blessing of God it will be accomplished if not in two years, at least in three from its commencement. This & other enterprises of benevolence have much to contend with from infidels - worldly men & Roman catholics - The Papists are making bold & almost unexampled efforts to diffuse their sentiments.

Thus Brethren we have endeavoured to give you a brief sketch of what the Lord is doing for us.

Our prayer is that the same blessings may be vouchsafed to you — It will give us great pleasure to hear from you soon to receive such information respecting your state & the interests of Christ's kingdom around you as you may think proper to communicate, & to be assured by you, that our christian salutations are received with the same cordiality, with which they are tendered — In behalf of the Soc of Inq.rs, J. K. Converse. 3rd Cor Sec.

Copy of a letter to the Students of Highbury Academy near London In behalf of the Society of Inquiry on Missions —

J. Ufkoff transcriber

Protestant Episcopal Church Papers

Theological Seminary Princeton Aug 2nd 1830

Dear Brethren. We most cordially reciprocate the fraternal feelings, expressed in your letter dated 19th Jan last. We fully concur also in the remarks which formed a considerable part of that communication – respecting the necessity of watchfulness and special prayer in students of Theology, and the danger of sinful compliance conformity to the spirit and habits which govern the men of this world. And in imitation of your example, we would speak with the utmost frankness & confess that when we review our conduct & feelings in reference to this subject, we discover many delinquencies, and have occasion for deep humiliation and repentance before God. While we appreciate the importance of a well educated and an enlightened ministry we are far from supposing that even the most ample endowments of intellect connected with the highest attainments in literature and science, will qualify any man to be an ambassador of Jesus Christ. He must possess a spirit of self consecration to the service of God – a readiness to forego his personal gratification, to encounter privations hardships persecution & even death itself, for the honor of his Master & the good of the church. Without this entire devotion of heart & of life to the promotion of the Redeemer's cause, we are accustomed to suppose, that the first & by far the most important qualification for the gospel ministry is still wanting: And we doubt not, the members of your Society and your Seminary entertain the same opinion on this subject. Dear Brethren, let our hearts be united in fervent prayer to the God of all grace that we and all who are preparing to proclaim the gospel of the kingdom may be favoured with a large measure of the Holy Spirit's influences & in due time be thoroughly furnished for the field of labour.

We rejoice to hear that you have been making increased exertions in the cause of missions. This cause comes directly within the scope of our enquiries; and we should be gratified to learn whether any of your number will probably employ their lives in giving the Gospel to the heathen in foreign lands. The call from abroad for laborers, is loud and oft repeated, and deserves the most serious and prayerful consideration from those who have the work of the ministry in view. How shall the millions who are perishing in superstition, ignorant that Jesus Xt came into the world to save sinners be delivered from the thraldom of sin and death eternal, unless our Theological Seminaries furnish men who will carry them the bible and teach them to read it? Whether any who are now connected with this institution, will devote themselves to the cause of Foreign missions, we can not say with absolute certainty. There are not a few of our number who are watching with a growing interest, the operations of missionary societies and who are surveying the extensive field of mission-ary labour, and we are not without hope that several of these, will feel it to be their duty to spend their days among the Heathen.

We often find it difficult to weigh with exactness, the comparative claims of foreign and domestic Missions. While we are contemplating the spiritual wants and miseries of other nations our attention is arrested and our hearts are made to bleed at the cry of many thousands in our own country, who are famishing for the bread of life. This appeal to our compassion becomes still more powerful when we reflect that Infidelity is more active & persevering than ever — that she is sending her periodicals gratuitously to almost every part of our country; and that her impious tracts are circulating through our cities rendering the minds of thousands hostile to the Bible and its author. In some places in our vicinity, Infidels seem roused almost to madness. They not only seek to spread their pestilential influence, where the ordi-

ances of the gospel are not enjoyed, but they defile even the sanctuary of our God with their blasphemous publications. Not long since a large number of infidel Tracts were secretly conveyed into the first Presbyterian church in one of the largest towns in our state. But though infidelity is doing her utmost, there is in general a corresponding zeal on the part of those who are seeking to promote the true happiness of man. And we hesitate not to say that the cause of morality & religion is steadily advancing, against the opposition and malice of its enemies.

Our clergy and the members of our church are in general decided friends to the cause of Temperance. We do not mean to insinuate that other denominations of Xtians take no interest in this noble work of reform; we rejoice that so many others have espoused the same cause and laboured in it with so much success. And we rejoice that public sentiment has undergone a change, upon this subject so absolutely astonishing, and which gives the friends of temperance so much reason to thank God and take courage.

We can inform you of no revivals of religion at present in this region of country. During the last winter, however, several churches in the Northern part of this State and in the adjacent district of the state of New York were favoured with a gracious outpouring of the Holy Spirit, and several hundreds, were hopefully brought from darkness & bondage into the light & liberty of the gospel of Xt. In Princeton there is no special attention to the subject of religion at present. We hope & pray that the Lord will visit us in mercy — revive our hearts & convert many around us. Dear Brethren let us hear from you soon. Please to inform us of the state of religion with you, and give us a remembrance in all your approaches to the throne of grace.

In behalf of Soc of Inq—
Festus Hanks. C.S.

Soc. of Inq in the protestant episcop: Sem of Va

WB Adger Copyist

generally settled the question of their duty to Foreign Mipions is liable to be suspected — The principle is this. When we undertake to decide this matter, we are prone to take it for granted at the first step that it is our duty to labour at home, unlep special providences of God point out the way, & in a certain sense compel us to a foreign station. Now the acknowledged fact is that the greater portion of our race are buried in superstition & pagan darkneps; & the unrepealed command is "Go ye into all the world & preach the gospel to every creature". Now in view of both this fact & this command, it is a serious question whether we should not, at the first, take it for granted that it is our solemn duty to go far hence to the Gentiles unlep there are peculiar & substantial reasons to detain us at home?

We have no important intelligence to communicate to you. There is nothing at present of peculiar interest in the churches immediately around us. The number of students now in the seminary is about 100 — 38 have entered this sepion.

In respect to the state of piety in our Seminary, we are happy to say, that through the good providence of God we have just entered upon another sepion & upon another year of our course, with quite favourable prospects. We have indeed cause to mourn that the graces of the spirit abound no more amongst us, — Still we are thankful that we may express the belief that there is a very good state of feeling amongst us at present — that brotherly love prevails — that there appears to be a spirit of

of prayer both for ourselves & others & a godly anxiety in behalf of impenitent sinners — Brethren pray for us that these & all other christian graces may abound in us more & more.

It will give us great pleasure to hear from you soon & to receive such information respecting your spiritual state & the interests of Christ's kingdom around you as you may think proper to communicate. And now Brethren "may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, & God, even our Father which hath loved us & given us everlasting consolation & good hope through grace, comfort your hearts & stablish you in every good word & work."

We are dear Brethren respectfully yours —

In behalf of the Society of Inquiry

J. K. Converse Cor Secy.

Transcribed by
Wm P. Alexander

Theol. Sem.
Auburn
N.Y.

Theo. Sem. Princeton N. J.

Jan. 1st 1831

Dear Brethren —

We regret that from any circumstances, even the appearance of neglect should rest upon us in this correspondence —

We verily believe our last letter remained unanswered — This mistake might have arisen fr. some change in the officers of our society, or deficiency in our records —

We are happy to receive this new instance of friendly remembrance fr. you — and trust it is reciprocated with Xtian love —

In your letter you allude to the danger of trusting too much to means — This is the danger of the convicted sinner — of the Xtian in every step of his progress — and of the Church, especially in these days of enterprise & action — We ought to bring all our efforts and leave them when we do our prayers, at the foot of the cross — remembring that neither are these who labour any thing, nor are their labours any thing, but God who giveth the increase —

Brethren, We feel that we live in an eventful period — The night which has hung dark and heavy over our guilty race, is evidently passing away — The light seems to be beaming forth along the horizon — not the full radience of the risen Sun, but the promise of its approach — This indeed is often interrupted by clouds — And ought we not to go to the unfailing promises of God, our hope would be small. But we have read & will believe, that the heathen shall be given to the Messiah for his inheritance, & the uttermost parts of the earth for his possession —

The conflict between the powers of light and darkness in this country, we trust will terminate in the triumph of truth — not because professed follow-

of it are worthy of such a blessing — but because we hope God will arise, and for his own name's sake, he. Mercy upon Zion — For this, there is need of much prayer — and a much higher standard of Faith & Zeal on the part of the Ministers of it, and candidates for this holy office —

The civil commotions — "the wars, and rumours of wars" — wh. agitate Europe and threaten again to deluge it in blood, are among the signs of the times, but their results are known only to God — He seems to be about "to shake all nations" may we not hope that the "desire of all nations is about to come" — While the God of Providence removes "diadem" after diadem and takes off crown after crown — he must be mad whose right it is to reign" —

We cannot now see to wt. all these changes tend, but we do see, that so far the power of the Beast and the false prophet are expired — The barrier of religious intolerance is broken in France — Religious instruction may now be disseminated in that country far & wide — We learn that the people are now crowding to the Protestant churches — to hear and judge for themselves —

There is a great call for Bibles, Tracts and Missionaries — In other parts of the world, God is opening a door wide — and inviting — for preaching the Gospel to every creature — Our hearts sink within us when we see how few there are to go and break the Bread of life, to the perishing millions in heathen lands —

Brethren, we read of the present wretchedness of the Heathen — and of the misery that awaits them in a coming world — and our sympathy & compassion are excited — Shall we say, be ye instructed, and be ye enlightened, and then leave them to perish? — "There is" — said the beloved Gordon Hall, in his plea for the Mission of India — "there is

a dead love — a dead Sympathy and a dead compassion, as well as a dead faith — being without works — But it was not a dead love or Sympathy or compassion that brought the Saviour fr. Heaven to the cross — That was not idle breath wh. he uttered — "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to Every creature" —

We admit, that there is great destitution in our own lands — but it is undoubtedly a mistake to suppose that the departure of Missionaries to foreign ~~lands~~ stations impairs the Church at home —

If all who are now preparing for the ministry sd. go to the heathen, instead of inspiring the cause of religion at home — it wd. doubtless raise the standard of piety, and awaken a new zeal for the cause of it throughout our whole country —

There are connected with our Seminary, 110 Students — We think there is more Inquiry and prayer on the Subject of missions than heretofore. Six or seven of our number will probably go to foreign lands —

There is nothing in the churches in this vicinity of special interest —

We learn by private correspondence, that there are revivals of Religion in Chillicothe, Ohio, Pittsburgh, Pa. — in most of the churches in the Presbytery of Winchester Va. — and in several other sections of the country —

We remain Brethren,

Yours in Warm affection —

In behalf of Soc. Inqr.

Philo J. Phelps. Sec.

Silas M. Andrews Treasr.

To
Soc. Inqr. on
Missions at
Auburn Theo. Sem.

To the Students of the United Secession divinity Hall
Glasgow —

Dr Brethren

It is with unfeigned pleasure that we acknowledge the receipt of your left affectionate letter — the free & warm tenor of which, no less than the little right we had to expect it, demands a prompt reply. With delight we hail the harbinger of Cordial amity, the fresh & pleasing illustration of the royal preachers apporism "many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it" — tho' the ocean swells between us it severs not the "unity of the spirit in the bond of peace" "that which we have seen & heard declare we unto you," as the apostle John said, writing to distant Xians, "that ye also may "have fellowship with us, & truly our fellowship is with the "Father & his Son Jesus Xt. If we walk in the light as he "is in the light we have fellowship one with another" — We are brethren of the same family, servants of the same Lord "who is not far from every one of us" — partakers of the same Glorious Gospel of the Son of God, & actuated by the same high & holy motives. It cheered our hearts to hear of the success which attends the cause of our common Lord & master among you, & of the increased & extending interest wh: is taken in missionary labors — We bid you God speed — We rejoice to see the bold & decided stand wh: you have taken, & to perceive the glow of missy ardor wh: pervades your letter & wh: we trust is indicative of the sentiments of the Scottish Church. It encourages us to hope for many a future Wallace & future Bruce to rise among you to extend a "liberty unsung "by poets & by senators unpraised" to introduce captive millions of idolators "from the bondage of corruption to the glorious liberty of the children of God"

While you are taking the vigorous measures

of wh: you write, your transatlantic Brethren are not inactive
Atho' — the A. B. C. F. Missions were much alarmed at the
late deficit of 20,000 ₤ at a time when they most needed
unstinted supplies, this seemingly untoward event has been
overruled by the provd of God to a beneficial result —
the warm & urgent appeals wh: have in consequence been made
to xians will tend to arouse them to a greater degree of feeling
& liberality — The people, as in Nehemiah's time, appear to
"have a mind to the work" & in proportion as information on
Missg subjects is diffused, & the duty of xians more clearly
ascertained, so will "every man lay by him in store according as
"God hath prospered him" — for the Good work — wherever
this information is possessed — such is found to be the
case. Witness the Moravians "whose praise is in the
Gospel throughout all the Churches" of whom almost every
member is acquainted with the state of their Missions,
& who from their limited number, perhaps not more than
16,000 — Can yet send 163 missionaries into the field & contribute
to their support 40,000 ₤ a year. As an augury of good it may
be observed, that our Sabbath Schools are beginning to be
interested in the Missg Cause; in many of wh: the children
eagerly form themselves into little missg associations & are delighted
to drop a penny a month into a Missg box, for the poor
Heathen children who have no Sundays Schools & no knowledge
of Jesus &c.

The A B C F. M has under its supervision 50
Missg Stations, 59 Ordained Missg & 75 assistants (of whom
45 are males & 130 females mostly engaged in the Care of Schools)
the whole number 234 — Of these 150 are laboring among our
own Indians (the Cherokee Osage & other tribes) the rest are
scattered over India, China, along the shores of the
Mediterranean & to the east of it & between 30 & 40 are
among the interesting & rapidly improving Sandwich Islanders

to Wh: last 3 new Miss.s have lately sailed from our shores. It is very affecting to hear of the anxiety manifested in the Marquesas, & other Groups of these Western Islands, where in their eager haste they have already erected buildings & when they cannot procure missionaries for whom they are clamorous, forcing a sailor to give them instruction. It reminds us of the once robber Cellaries the Converts of Swartz who followed Dr. Buchanan crying, we do not ask for money, we do not ask for Bread, only give us the word of God. The Miss.s of the Am Board, just mentioned Wh: was organized about 20 years ago, have had in their Schools the past year 47.558 natives & have admitted to Church membership 1272 of whom the greater part have been ~~from~~ brought in within the last 10 years. What may result from the late mission to China we cannot foresee or hardly indeed conjecture, but if the results of Dr. Morrison indefatigable labors, & the success of one or more faithful Miss.s as living teachers be at all proportioned to the extent & importance of that empire, the Good to be there accomplished will be incalculable. It is with pleasure we learn that your eyes are also directed to that immense & crowded region of perishing souls.

Another item of information contained in your welcome letter, & wh: we read with deep interest, was the adoption of measures to check the giant strides & baleful power of intemperance. We rejoice in the attention wh: you are paying to this important subject, & we hope soon to be able to congratulate you on your success. The revolution in public sentiment in regard to this matter with us has been astonishing. Associations have been formed through the whole country, the consumption

of Ardent Spirits has decreased in a very perceptible degree
Many Distilleries have been forced to suspend their operations
& many traders have renounced it as an article of traffic
& it is no longer deemed an indispensable requisite by the
innkeeper — to give you a more definite idea of
what has been effected; — Since the establishment of Temp-
Societies in York, the last report published in that City
Speaks of a deficiency in the exports & imports of Spirituous
liquors for the past year, to the amt of 2,000,000 ℔ —
In some parts of our Country the State of public opinion
is such, that it is seriously Contemplated to make entire
abstinence a term of Church Communion — All however
are not prepared for this decided & bold Measure; with
the Majority it is still a moot Point —

We cannot, Dear Brethren, bring our
letter to a close without saying a word of what the Lord
appears to be doing in our midst — The Concerns of Zion,
even on her farthest walls & remotest frontiers must be
interesting to you as Xians. The frequency of revivals of
religion in our Country has attracted the notice & attentive
Consideration of many pious men among you, & it
would be strange shd we pass over in silence what has
attracted the eyes of others at a distance —

By the term revival of religion is here understood
a season of deep & general Seriousness on the Concerns of
religion — When the Spirit of the Lord enlivens the graces
of Xians, & their hearts are stirred up to magnify the Lord
& when they are more fervent, more frequent, more engaged in
prayer, (particularly in the closet) interceding for Sinners
& secondly when sinners entreat at the throne of Grace

by active exertions to bring to "truth as it is in Jesus" solemnly & impressively before the minds of the Careless — Ministers do not confine their warnings to the weekly services of the Sanctuary pulpit — but like the apostles of old, they seek opportunities in private "watching for souls" being "instant in season out of season" that they may arouse men from the deathlike sleep of sin — Private xians meanwhile are engaged like Aaron & Hur in holding up their ministers hands — meetings are appointed thro' the week for prayer & the Pastor invites any who are anxious about the salvation of their souls to unbosom themselves freely to him, an invitation which is often accepted by scores — In short, men of the world see that xians are really in earnest, & they are led to reflection on the subject, & many are brought by the Spirit of God, we trust, to true repentance — of such revivals there have been within the past year in the U. S. about 200 —

There are a few men in our Church, known as evangelists, who confine themselves to no pastoral charge, but hold themselves in readiness to go wherever the Spirit of God appears to direct them — The labors of these men have been much blessed in the conversion of sinners during periods of revival — One of them is said to have been the honored instrument of many thousand conversions — These preachers are distinguished for their close, plain, & pungent applications of divine truth to the consciences of sinners — There has been for some weeks past a remarkable revival of the kind above described in the Populous City of N York, in wh: all the Presbyterian Churches with those of some other denominations, have largely shared — The number of persons under

Connection of Life or triumphing in the Comforts of Saving Faith, is not precisely ascertained; but Several hundreds are known to have solicited an interest in the prayers of the Congregations — In a Single Church as many as 150 —

That God would be pleased to revive your hearts & ours, that, as men of God, we may be "thoroughly furnished to every Good work & Work" is dear Brethren our Sincere & fervent prayer —

Signed on behalf of the Society of Inquiry on Missions

(Signed) Robert Davidson

Princeton Theo: Sem^{y}

March 3. 1831 ——

Copied by

Geo H Apthorp.

Princeton. March 31. 1831.

To the Society of Inquiry on Missions
Andover Theo. Sem.

Dear Brethren,

We are unable to account for the long suspension of our correspondence, and unwilling that it should longer continue. According to our records, no letter has been received from your society within the last 3 years: while nearly 2 years have elapsed since the date of our last to you. We have supposed it possible that a letter has been sent in answer to our last, which we have not rec.d and if so, we may be resting under the imputation of neglect - That this may no longer be the case we have resolved to renew the correspondence, which was long since begun in christian affection, and which has long been continued by men now widely dispersed over the world, and by some too who have been called home from their labours by the Lord of the harvest.

We would not willingly relinquish the pleasure and the privilege of this correspondence, especially in this interesting day, when the world and the church are in motion - when thrones are cast down with their occupiers, that He whose right it is may reign. Though we may be unable to add any thing to the intelligence which we receive from other sources, still we would not be silent though pointing to this and other lands, we could only say, "Brethren, behold what God hath wrought!" It is delightful to commune with one another over these scenes and rejoice together at the progress of the Redeemers Kingdom. Especially is it delightful to do this with those who are preparing for the same arduous work on earth & looking forward to the same blessed hope in heaven.

You have doubtless been encouraged by the glorious revivals of religion, which have been announced from different parts of the country & especially from the State of N. York. A great number of towns in this state are sharing in this blessing. And we rejoice to be able to add that there are many encouraging indications in this place. We have recently had a four days meeting which was well attended and solemn. Morning meetings for prayer are numerously attended and a number appear to be inquiring what they must do to be saved.

Upon several of the neighborhoods in this vicinity where Sabbath-schools are taught and meetings attended by the brethren of the Seminary God is pouring out his Spirit, and crowning their labours with success.

The cloud is still increasing and extending southward. Some drops have fallen upon Phila., the pledge we trust of a plentiful shower. Although we have reason to humble ourselves before God, for our want of faith and gratitude amid these wonderful displays of ~~converting~~ saving grace, still we think there is much more of the spirit of prayer among us than heretofore ——— Among the objects occupying attention, the condition of our African population is regarded with increasing interest. Nor are the Heathen and foreign shores forgotten. Several of our present number (perhaps as many as 8 or 10) are expecting to go to foreign fields & preach the unsearchable riches of Christ to nations sitting in the region and shadow of death.

We have rec'd a letter from Brother Reed, from on board the ship Convo, near Calcutta; but as the ship by which the letter was sent, was bound to Boston, we presume you have received more intelligence concerning the Miss. band than we have.

Brethren, we know we have your friendship. It is not therefore in proof of this that we ask the renewal of this correspondence, but for the mutual encouragement of both our societies. We need also your prayers. In view of future labours we see a weight of responsibility to be borne, and in view of the last day, a solemn account to be rendered.

Through Christ strengthening us we can do all things, and we desire men to feel that except the Lord build, the workmen labour in vain.

Brethren if Prov. the good providence of God we are permitted to enter the field of labour, and to meet you on this or on a foreign shore, we shall meet you with an open hand and open heart & an uplifted prayer, that God would make us clay of his power and glory & would bless our instrumentality in building up the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christian affection
In behalf of the Soc. of Inquiry on
Missions Princeton Theo. Sem.
Philo. H. Phelps

Copied by
Rich'd Armstrong

Princeton April 1st 1831—

To the Students of the Theo. Sem.
of Hamilton N. York— Dear Brethren,

At the last meeting of the Board of Managers of our Society, it was resolved to propose the opening of a correspondence with your institution. Our Society was organized soon after the organization of the Seminary. Its object, as its title imports, is to enquire on the subject of Missions, & to obtain & as far as possible, to diffuse information respecting the advancement of the Redeemers kingdom, especially in heathen lands. In the prosecution of this object, our Society have commenced & sustained for a number of years, a correspondence with a number of missionary stations & with missionaries, especially with those who have gone from our own land. We also correspond with a number of Theological Institutions of several different denominations, both in this country & in Europe. It is a part of our design to learn what hold this subject has upon the hearts of our Brethren in other Institutions, who are preparing for the work of the holy ministry—

We rejoice that the day has arrived when we may speak with confidence of Christian love to Brethren, who though they may differ from us in minor points, are trusting in the same Saviour, looking forward to the same blessed hope, & daily before the same throne of grace, offering the petition, "Thy kingdom come"— One of the most pleasing & indubitable proofs that that kingdom is advancing to universal prevalence & millennial glory, is the union & cooperation of different denominations of Christians. The watchmen on the walls of Zion are beginning to see eye to eye, at least in the great fundamental points of doctrine & of duty— They are lifting up their voices & hearts together, & God is blessing their labors— The signals of religion, of which we daily hear, seem to be beyond any thing this country ever before witnessed. There are many precious promises to the Church, yet to be fulfilled, when a nation shall be born in a day; & these scenes seem to be the commencement of their fulfilment. May we all feel that whatever instrumentality we may be permitted to exercise, the excellency of the power is of God—

There are at present in our Institution about 100 Students— Eight or ten of this number will probably go to the Heathen. We feel that it is the duty of those preparing for the ministry, to look beyond the circle of friends & home & native land, & survey the field which is the world— And with the command of our Saviour before us to "Preach the gospel to every creature" & with the wants of our own land & the wants of dying heathen around us we should look up to the Lord of the harvest to direct us in the path of duty, although that path should lead us through trials & sufferings, & to grant us grace & success whereby

we should be called to labour —

We should be happy to hear from you concerning the state of religion in your vicinity, the prosperity of your Institution, & the aid which the missionary enterprise will receive from you.

Copied by
Henry Ballantine —

Yours in Christian affection
In behalf of "The Society of Inquiry on Missions"
P. F. Phelps Sec

Dear Brethren

With pleasure we address ourselves to the duty of answering your welcome epistle, & of reciprocating the fraternal sentiments wh. it breathed. May this mutual good will ever continue, that we may prove what is the "fellowship of the saints, which they have with the Father & with his Son Jesus Christ, till we all come in the unity of the faith & of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Xt, thus making increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love". —

Doubtless you will be pleased to hear what the Lord is doing in our midst. how he is laying bare his arm & taking to himself his great power & subduing many proud & rebellious hearts to his sceptre that they may submit to the Kingdom of God dear Son. — For some weeks the attention of the populous city of N York has been extensively excited to the momentous concerns of Religion: Meetings for religious exercises have been frequent & thronged; the churches have been opened whole days together, & filled with persons eagerly listening to the word of truth, & enquiring what they shall do to be saved? — Prayer meetings at 6 of A.M. have been numerously attended. & hundreds embraced the opportunities wh were presented for obtaining special instruction in divine things & an interest in the prayers of Gods people. In several instances the members of the church, that they might make room for others, retired into an adjoining apartment, to wrestle with God in prayer, while the Minister was faithfully declaring in the church, the plain & simple truths of the Gospel to a crowded audience of those yet out of Xt. The several churches of our connection in that City have received a large accession to their numbers; but the good work is not confined to them. Other denominations are also largely shares in its benefits. — From many other cities & towns (it is reported 120) cheering news of a similar kind is continually brought to our ears. It has become a common practice in these places to observe special seasons for religious services, continually usually for four days. & thence termed Four Days Meetings. Over these occasions several Ministers are successively

occupied in preaching to large congregations, when it is observable the sermons & exhortations solemn, plain & pungent, & the spirit of prayer more fervent & energetic. Xtians are stimulated to deal faithfully with their own souls, & with the souls of the impenitent around them; officers of the church are roused to unwonted activity in discharging their appropriate functions; visiting from house to house & stirring up Xtians to remember that they are the light of the world & the salt of the earth.

We trust moreover, Dear Brethren, from present indications that the Lord is about to deal bountifully with the village in wh we are situated. As a Seminary we hope he will not pass us by, & leave us to harreness & leaness of soul, but that he will revive our faith & love & every Xtian grace. Indeed it seems almost impossible to remain cold & unaffected while we see that God is pouring out his Spirit all around us. & we desire to be grateful that he has enabled some of our Brethren to be instrumental in this neighborhood in awakening many souls to a sense of their true condition & in directing them to the Lamb of God wh. taketh away the sin of the world. — We have also the pleasure of informing you, that about 10. of the Colleges in our Country (by wh. we mean institutions exclusively literary, as distinguished from such as are Theological, to the latter of wh. the little Seminary is with us appropriated) have within a few months had the salt of divine grace cast into them; so that they have in many instances become fountains of piety as well as of learning. To mention but one out of several examples: Yale College in the City of New Haven, Connecticut, has been lately visited by the Spirit of the Lord, apparently in answer to the fervent & persevering prayers of few pious students. At our last advices 120 students were rejoicing in the triumph of faith while nearly all the rest of 350. undergraduates (not reckoning 100 of these already pious) were deeply impressed with conviction of sin & of their danger while out of Xt. — We learn also the pleasing intelligence that this revival of Religion has extended among the Citizens, & that at the close of a late Four days meeting, 700 had avowed their determination to relinquish that pride wh. had so long kept them from the Saviour, & ~~leave of~~ their willingness to leave of him who was meek & lowly in heart. We would add, that there is a custom with ~~us~~ Christians throughout our country to observe one day by agreement in every year as a day of fasting & prayer with special reference to Colleges and the like institutions, wh. custom we beg leave to recommend to your consideration. — The last thursday in February has been so observed for eight year past.

The Temperance Reformation appears to be coextensive with the progress of Revivals. We are almost inclined to think that the two have hitherto gone hand in hand the one appearing to prepare the way for the other. To say that Temperance Associations on the plan of Total Abstinence, have exerted a great influence in this country would be to speak tamely. The change effected within the last four years during wh. time the present Society has employed travelling agents, has been to every one astonishing. We have reason to feel as did, the Patriarch when he said "I am not worthy of the least of all thy mercies and of all the truth wh thou hast

shamed into thy servent; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan and now I am become two bands.— We have allowed ourselves to dwell thus long on this topic, not only because it is deeply interesting to us, but because we doubt not, that you will also take a lively interest in the prosperity & advancement of the Kingdom of our Common Lord; as well as because we perceived indications in your letter, of your desire to share with us in these glorious manifestations of the grace of God.—

It was gratifying to us to learn from you that the cause of Missions lies near your hearts, as it does also to ours, who have resolved ourselves into a Society of Inquiry especially on this subject: and that with you as with us there are some who have resolved not to confer with flesh & blood, but to take their lives in their hands and plant the standard of the cross in the dark places of the earth who are full of the habitations of cruelty.— In reply to your inquiries as to the Missionary operations of your Presbyterian brethren, we would state, that the interest of Xtians appears to be on the increase & that we expect a new & strong impulse will speedily be given to their efforts. The Presbytery of Baltimore have recently set a noble example by determining to furnish & maintain one Missionary to Foreign lands; an example which it is hoped will be followed by her sister Presbyteries, of which there are 100. connected with the General Assembly (It may not be amiss to mention here that there are formed into 19 Synods, and contain 1500 ordained Ministers - 2.758 congregations, 173.329. Communicants. 630. Licentiates. & 228 Candidates for the Ministry in various stages of preparation) The amount contributed the past year by the Presbyterians as a body, to Domestic and Foreign Missions, was $44.914 — For Educating young men for the Gospel ministry $126.170—

The American Board of Comm. for Foreign Missions was organized in 1810 and has now under its supervision 50 Stations. 234 Missionaries (including Assistants) of whom 153 labour among the Indians of our own country, the rest in India. China, along the Mediterranean & Eastward & in the Sandwich Islands — where there are 900 schools. — The number taught in the various schools every-where is 47.558 — The Total of Adults who have been admitted to church Membership 1272. The Society's income for the last year was $106.928 (Though by some it has been computed at less) That of the A. H. M. S. $33.229 — of the Methodist Miss. Soc. $13.128 of the Bap. Board of Miss. $20.000; of the A. Edu. Soc. $30.710 — aiding 524 indigent young men; of the Amer. Bible Soc. $170.067, who have issued a total of 1.084.513. Bibles & Testaments; of the Amer. Sunday School Union $76.521: of the American Col. Soc $20.295: The whole amount received by all our benevolent Societies since their formation has been estimated at about $3.500.000.

The mention of the Colonization Soc reminds of your desire to know the existing state of public feeling & public measures in reference to Slavery. We rejoice to find so philanthropic a spirit pervading your country on this subject — that country whose very air you boast has said breathes freedom,

Spread it then
And let it circulate thro every vein. Of all your empire, that when Britain first

Of all your empire, that when Britain first at Heaven's command may freely learn mercy too

Our country deeply deplores the evil wh. she feels so sensibly. In some of the States there is provision made for the liberation after a certain age of all who may be born slaves. But there is such a number of slaves in our Southern states (computed at between 2 & 3 millions) & such the fearful ratio of their increase; & so depraved is the moral character; and such has been the deplorable effect of some seditious papers circulated by free blacks among them; that Several State Governments have been compelled in self defence to pass ordinances inflicting severe penalties upon all who shall venture to teach them to read & write. But it is manifestly impossible to keep them thus ignorant always. while if they remain they will be a constant terror to the whites. Hence nearly all classes of people & 13 States formally, have expressed it as their opinion that immediate, though gradual Colonization is the only remedy. The Society wh. was organized in 1819 has accordingly resolved to charter several vessels, to maintain a constant intercourse between this country & Africa, wh. are to sail successively on the first day of every third month, each vessel from a different port. A sufficient number of emigrants is expected to justify this measure. Many thousand persons would have emancipated their slaves long ago, had they not been met by a difficulty in regard to their subsistence afterwards.

I close this communication, dear brethren, by offering my best wishes for your prosperity in the midst of the tempest wh. distracts Europe & especially that you may be blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ, to the word of whose grace we commend you. Farewell.

Signed on behalf of the Society
of Inquiry on Missions
Robert Davidson

Theol. Sem. of Princeton N.J.
April 1st 1831

To the Students of Highbury College

Copied by
G. W. Bishop

Baptist Sem.
Newton Mass

Princeton April 8. 1831

Dear Bretheren

Desirous of obtaining im-
portant information respecting domes-
-tic & foreign missions with a view of
acertaining our personal duty as to
engaging in them & desirous also of
being made aquainted with the sta
of religeon in our own & other countr
The Students of this Theological Sem-
-mary formed themselves into a so-
-ciety for these purposes wh. is almost
of the same age with the institution

In order to accomplish these e
ends we have opened correspondence
with most similar societies of in the
Theol. Sem.s of the United States, with
the missionaries among the aboriginal
of America, & in South America; with
the missionaries & missionary insti-
-tutions in Great Britain & Ireland, &
apon the Continent of Europe; in the
islands of the Pacific Ocean & on the con-
-tinents of Asia & Africa

The importance of this correspon-
-dence will doubtless Bretheren be obv-
-ous to you; for, as servants of them be-
-fore every knee shall bow & whose ky
will e'er long include all our fallen
world. It becomes to know, & receive
with joy the glad tidings of the glor-
-ous Gospel's being carried to different
nations & kingdoms who have it
not; & to be aquainted with the tri-
-umphs wh. Redeeming Love has
made, & is making in the various

parts of our own happy land.

Brethren we are all in the service of King Immanuel our glorious Lord & Master. Our hope & aims are one. It is on this account, as well as for the reasons mentioned that we propose to open a correspondence with your Denomination by reciprocal intelligence concerning the state of Religion to warn & animate one another in our Christian course & provoke each other to zeal & good works.

The command of our Redeemer is "that we love one another." We assure you that on our part, & we doubt not on yours also there is a glad willingness to comply with this injunction. For brethren, surely shall all men know that we are the disciples of Xt. that we love one another. Now nothing can be more conducive to cherish the increase of the flame we would open.

It is our object to obtain from you intelligence in relation to the state of piety in your own institution & neighborhood & facts which you may have gathered from the Christian world together with such other communications on religious topics as will prove interesting.

No man can well be ignorant of the wonderful operations of the Spirit of God in the congregations & colleges of the United States. Truly we permitted to witness what our fathers never beheld. The history of the present day will shine conspicuously in the annals of Eternity. — Brethren even Christians should now be alive. We should now watch & pray; we should search our own hearts for while the kingdom of the Prince of peace is extending its borders the powers of infidelity & iniquity are rising as a Lion & Truth & Error approaching face to face — Christian ministers & candidates for the ministry

try must strain every nerve to oppo
the power of the Beast & Infidle
We ar happy to inform you that altho
we have to lament much coldness
& deadness yet there is considerable
warmth of feeling & energy of action a
mong us. There is also an increasing
attention to religeon in Princeton. A
meeting for prayer is held in the Chur
every morning at 6 o clock. — Pray for
us brethren. & O that God would rem
ber the day of small things among us
We think that a prosperous state
religeon in the Colleges & Sem.s of the
U. S. is of the utmost importance a
the influence they exert is hardly ev
properly estimated. How important
is it & how should we pray that the
fountain heads may by the blessing
of God send forth streams wh. shall not
sterilize & desolate but make glad
the city of our God — — Brethren we
shall be happy to hear from you so
Our feelings towards you are we believ
those of xcam freindship

In behalf &c &c

James Clark
1st Ass. Sec

To the students of the Baptist
Theol. Sem.
Newton Mass.

Copied by
V Blythe

To the Th: Sem: Alex^a

Theo. Sem. Princeton Apr. 9th 1831.

Dear Brethren,

We tender you our warmest thanks for your kind letter of December last, and gladly reciprocate the expressions of fraternal regard and christian affection which it contains. We feel that your remarks on the importance of union between the different branches of the christian church are very weighty and just, and surely there is no reason why we should not be cordially and closely united. We hope we are all members of the same family of Christ. We are engaged in the same cause, preparing for the same work, animated by the same hopes, and destined to be undistinguished sharers of the same eternity. We receive all our supplies of grace, & strength, & and spiritual light through the same channel and ~~through~~ from the same source;—even from the father of lights, from whom cometh down every good and every perfect gift.

For forming and strengthening this bond of union, our schools of Theology are a very proper place. We all know that whenever dissentions are kindled, or are known to exist between different branches of the visible church, they become a grievous stumbling block to men of worldly minds, and furnish occasions, which are eagerly seized by infidels and opposers & used with no small success against the religion which we profess, and which it is to be the business of our lives to win others to embrace. And since it is so, we do most heartily adopt the the sentiment of your letter and say, let us all whatever name we bear, or to whatever department of the army

of Israel we belong — let us all cheerfully unite our strength against the common enemy, and with one heart and one voice come up to the help of the Lord against the mighty.

In respect to the state of religion amongst ourselves we are happy ~~to say~~ in being able to say that there appears to be more deep feeling — more fervent prayer — more concern and anxiety for impenitent sinners, and more christian activity in the cause of Christ, than we have witnessed here for many months. The Lord appears to be peculiarly near us. He has, we humbly trust, been pleased to bless the labors of several of the members of our Seminary, who are engaged in conducting sabbath schools and prayer meeting in the neighborhoods around Princeton.

The College also has received a blessing. Seven or eight, it is believed, have lately been converted from sin unto righteousness. There is still much solemnity there, though we fear, that in the preparation for the approaching close of this session, the attention, especially with the impenitent, is subsiding rather than increasing. Amongst the people of our village there is an encouraging state of things, we can hardly call it a revival in the popular acceptation of the word. A few are anxious. Meetings are well attended and often very solemn. We hope the Lord is soon to pour out his Spirit here. Let us have your prayers, dear brethren that our hopes may not be disappointed.

You ask us how we are interested in the benevolent enterprises of the day? We have space only for a brief answer. We feel deeply interested in them all — many of us are engaged in conducting Sabbath schools and social prayer meeting, within a circuit of ten or twelve miles around this village. In some of these labors we believe God is with us at the present time — On the subject of Foreign Missions we fear there is not amongst us that degree of feeling, and prayer, and devotedness which the incalculable importance of this subject demands. A

few of us are prayerfully thinking of engaging in this cause.

There is another enterprize which we trust is near and dear to the heart of some of the members of our seminary. It is one which we think has strong claims on the American churches, but which, through some remarkable defect of public sentiment, has been sadly overlooked. We allude to the colored population of the U.S.

A Society was organized in this institution about one year and a half since, called the Society of Inquiry concerning Africans. Its object is partially indicated by its name. We associated together for the purpose of making ourselves better acquainted with the condition of the African race amongst us, and of inquiring what we can do and what we can excite others to do for improving the moral condition of more than two millions of these degraded human beings — the majority of whom, especially of the slaves, are emphatically heathens — and heathens too in the heart of a land of christians, of sabbaths and of bibles. You, dear brethren know their condition. you know their deep moral degradation. You know — at least some of you — how little has yet been done, & how little is now doing to instruct them in the religion of Christ, and save their souls from eternal bondage and death —

This class of population now numbers more than 2,000,000. Its annual increase is nearly or quite sixty thousand. According to its rate of increase, since 1815, it doubles its numbers once in twenty five years. In fifty years, perhaps within the life time of some of us, they will number nearly 20000000. And now must these 20000000 with all the intermediate generations live and die in the heart of this christian nation in the same moral degradation in which a vast majority of them now is. This is or ought to be a question of deep and anxious interest to every philan-

throphist - especially to every christian.

Our system of slavery is already so appalling in its aspect that very few dare to look it in the face. We are greatly perplexed - we tremble when we look forward a few years to contemplate what must be the state of things then unless something be done now. When O! when will christian charity awake to the sorrows & tears - to the ignorance and woful degradation of a sixth part of our whole population!

Brethren, have we not all a duty to perform in reference to this subject? & will you not unite with us in devising and executing prudent means for raising this unhappy part of our population from their moral ruin, & for preparing them, at least in some poor degree, for eternity; when, in their presence, we must give an account of our Stewardship.

But we must bid you adieu. It will give us great pleasure to hear from you soon - to learn your views of the subject mentioned above, & receive such other information respecting the interest of Christs kingdom as you may be able to communicate.
In the bonds of christian affection we are, dear brethren yours very respectfully.

In behalf of the Society of Inquiry on Mission

J. R. Converse
1st Associate Sectr.

Society of Inquiry on Missions
In the Theo. Seminary
Alexandria.
D. C.

Geo. Boggs
Copied

Theol. Sem. Princeton May 2d 1831.

Dear Brethren,

We perceive by a reference to our files, that eight months have elapsed since we had the happiness of receiving Brother Gulick's truly acceptable letter of Jan. 8th 1830. We owe you an apology for this protracted silence; but without entering into any formal explanation of it, which in the end would probably not release us from the necessity that we now feel of throwing ourselves on your christian forbearance & affection, we trust, on the one hand, that you will not attribute it to any intentional neglect, & on the other, that you will not estimate the value which we place upon your friendly communications, by the degree of promptness with which they are answered. Whatever may have tended hitherto to check or interrupt this correspondance, we trust, Dear Brethren, that it may henceforward assume a different character & be conducted on either side so far as the good Providence of God may permit, with a regular frequency which will render it increasingly pleasant & profitable. We are aware that in expressing this wish, we are asking much more than we can possibly return, & we recollect with so many thousands around you famishing for the bread of life which you are appointed to dispence to them, it would be an act of self-denial for you to appropriate to us even a single hour which might be claimed by those perishing souls. But let us remind you that you may, perhaps, be promoting the cause which lies so near your hearts in the most effectual way, by sending just as frequently as may be consistent with your other duties, such letters as the one to which we are now replying, to this & similar Institutions & to our fellow christians generally in this country.

It is too true that we are prone to forget our obligations to the heathen: we wish the Bible to be circulated amongst them — we pray for their conversion — we rejoice when it is said that this one & that one have devoted themselves to the glorious work — & we long for the day when "the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of the Lord & of his Christ". But, alas! with too many of us these are mere transient emotions or abstract sentiments; we fear they do not habitually influence our conduct — they do not become, as they should do, a part of our very being — they do not impress upon our minds a deep, practical, abiding

sense of our individual responsibility, in regard to the cau
of missions. The spirit of that "Missionary Society which
was formed on the mount of Olives", has not come down to
us, nor can we expect to witness a revival of it, until we
leave off thinking in the mass, & fully realise the ascended
command of our Blessed Redeemer, was addressed personally t
our selves. It is true we experience no little difficulty
in examining this subject with that patience, & impar=
tiality which its importance demands. When we would
send our thoughts abroad to foreign lands with a view
of ascertaining their claims to our services, the wants
our own country seem at once to arise before the mind
with a vividness which characterises them at no other time
& which almost invests them with the attributes of a
present & tangible reality. Thus too, in considering our
private circumstances & relations, while we ought to es=
timate them only by that infallible word which is given
us as the rule of duty, many of us are in danger of
converting the sacrifices - the apparent sacrifices - of those
who have devoted themselves to the heathen, into a standard
by which to determine the question of our own duty. - & it
need scarcely be added that when we do this - tho we certain
intend no self-deception - we seldom fail of discovering in
our own way, mightier obstacles than any which have
been surmounted by others. - For these & other reasons, we say
Dear Brethren, write us often. Speak freely of our duty.
The very same arguments which you might have used
(& probably did use) while here, to interest your Brethren
in this subject, if presented now would derive new force
as well from your example as from the impressive scenes
by which you are surrounded. When men can say, in de=
scribing the desolations of paganism &, as connected with
these the triumphs of the gospel & the spiritual harvest
withering for lack of reapers - multitudes of souls daily
sinking down into perdition, who would gladly receive the
tidings of salvation if there were any to proclaim them
within their hearing - when they can say, we speak that we
have seen & testify that we do know, their appeal is invested
with a power which nothing but the spirit of omnipotence
can render more irresistible.

In passing from this subject to those of a more general
nature, so many topics present themselves which would be

mutually interesting to us, that we scarcely know how
to make such a selection from them as shall fill one sheet
most profitably. It has been reserved for the christian
who should stand on the moral elevation of the 19th century
& especially of the present year, & take a survey of the world,
to enjoy a spectacle which was never before witnessed since
the creation of man & which prophets & kings, in their dim
& shadowy visions of the future victories of the cross, might
well have longed to see. True it is that in thus looking
abroad over the face of our globe, we behold a dark
cloud of ignorance, idolatry & death, resting upon by
far the greater portion of its surface, & at first like
that Persian despot who wept as he reviewed from his
throne, his armed millions, to think that in one short
century not an individual of them would survive, we
are disposed to weep over this picture of this wretchedness
& sin. But when we look again & behold the beams of the
Sun of Righteousness here & there penetrating this thick mantle of
darkness — when we see the altars & cruel rites of a debasing
superstition giving place to the spiritual religion of our
adorable Saviour — when we see sanctuaries erected on the
ruins of heathen temples, consecrated in part by the aid of Kings & princes
& filled on each returning Sabbath with a multitude of
humble & attentive worshipers — & when we hear that the
rude places of the earth & the distant islands of the seas,
are vocal with the praises of the God of Israel — we cannot
but call upon our souls to bless the Lord & to rejoice in the
anticipated subjugation of all kindreds & languages to
his dominion — The present is indeed is, indeed, an eventful
=ful period. The rise & fall of kingdoms, insurrections &
conquests, among the barbarous tribes of Asia or Africa,
seem to be of little moment in their bearing upon the general
interests of our race; but every material change in the
condition or policy of the European States or of our
own country, is worthy of attention, as likely to be
fraught with consequences important to the whole future
history of man. You will have heard before this reaches
you of the commotions in Europe. France in July last
by an almost bloodless revolution, deposed & banished the
infatuated Charles X. & gave the crown to his relative —
Louis Philipe. One of the earliest acts of the new gov=
=ernment, was to dissolve the unholy union between the
State & the Catholic religion, so that all sects are now
on an equal footing.

It is believed that the great majority of the people are infidels — a fact which is more encouraging to the friends of Protestant Christianity, than it would be if they manifested a bigotted attachment to the church of Rome. Several missionaries with Bibles, Tracts &c have already been sent there from England.

France, however, has not been quiet since the Revolution. The king is disposed to maintain peace, while the people are impatient for a war — & that apparently, either with Holland so as to preserve Belgium, or with Austria because she has entered Italy, or with Russia so as to prevent the re-subjugation of the Poles.

It is altogether probable that the awfully blasphemous sins of the "Reign of Terror" are now to be visited upon the French nation, & that they will be compelled to drink even more deeply of the wine of the wrath of that God whom they dared by an impious decree to annihilate. — As has been intimated, Belgium which was formerly united to Holland (& at a still earlier period, to France) has thrown off her allegiance to the Dutch & is now governed by a Regency, until the neighbouring powers in their collective wisdom, shall agree upon a King for her.

In like manner, Poland has declared herself independant & is now fighting against Russia. A large army sent against her by the Northern Autocrat, has been forced to retreat. There is also an insurrection in Italy, & the insurgents are reported once to have approached so near to Rome that the Pope & Cardinals were on the point of decamping. Austria has marched her troops into Italy, to restore order.

England is agitated with a domestic question — the great subject of Parliamentary reform. You will not be surprised, Brethren, after receiving this slight sketch of the state of affairs, if the next intelligence which reaches you should be the news of a general war in Europe.

Nearly all the nations have collected large armies, which are in readiness to take the field. & warlike preperations are making on every side. The whole continent heaves as with the tumultuous movements of a mighty, internal volcano, struggling to burst forth; & unless the signs of the times strangely deceive us, it will burst & scatter fire-brands & death far & near.

We mention these things not because you will be deeply

interested in any political changes, however great, considered nearly in themselves; but because we believe you will discover in them, as, unless we are altogether mistaken, we do, the approaching fulfilment of some inspired prophecies. On comparing the most judicious interpretations of prophecy with the present aspect of affairs in Europe, we cannot resist the conviction that the time is soon to arrive when the unrighteous dominion of the Papal Beast shall end. The politician may discern in these revolutions only the ordinary results of personal ambition or national jealousies; but the christian whose views are derived from the word of God & reach forward into eternity, knows that the dreadful commotions & excesses, civil dissensions, wars with their attendant horrours. The down fall of antient Thrones & the rise of new kingdoms, are all tending under the control of an unseen but almighty Agent, to prepare the way of Him whose right it is to reign, & who will yet reign King of nations as He is now King of saints.

We should have devoted more space to the religious concerns of our own country, had we not presumed that you were receiving frequent Intelligence on this subject, from the Missionary rooms. We might fill many sheets with such details as we trust you have already seen in our periodical publications, respecting the wonderful revivals with which it has pleased the great Head of the church to bless us. You had witnessed seasons of revivals, Dear Brethren, before you left home; but you never witnessed a season like the present. It seems to be a Pentecostal year. Almost every part of our land has shared in the blessing & every mail continues to bring tidings of fresh effusions of the Spirit. While some places enjoy only the silent but grateful dews of divine Grace, others receive the gentle rain, & others still the abundant showers.

Among the larger towns & cities which have experienced rich manifestations of the presence of God, are Boston, New Haven, Hartford, Middletown, New York, Albany, Troy, Rochester, Philadelphia, Newark, Lynchburgh, Charleston (S.C.) Cincinnatti & many others. The whole number added to the evangelical churches of the country within a few months past, must be many thousands. In Rochester alone, there have been it is said, 1500 conversions at the least, & 600 in

the city of N. Haven. We rejoice in being able to state that very many of our colleges have been visited by the Holy Spirit; & among them are Yale, Middlebury Union, Hamilton Amherst, Jefferson, Hampden Sidney, & others. It is believed that in Yale College alone (which has been pre-eminantly blessed 130 young men have recently been born into the Kingdom of Christ.

Truly God has remembered his people, & to his name be all the glory. It is impossible to calculate the consequences of these revivals, on the prosperity of our country & on the noble schemes of christian enterprise & benevolence which characterize the present day. It would be delightful & might be profitable, to indulge in some speculations on these topics but our limits forbid; our Bible, Tract & Sabbath School, Home Missionary, & Temperance Societies, are all flourishing, several States are reported as fully supplied with Bibles, & many others nearly so. The probability is that altho. the whole Union may not be supplied within the two years contemplated (which expire during this month,) the work will be so nearly accomplished that a few more months only will be sufficient to complete it. The project adopted by the A. S. S. Union in the course of the last spring, to establish, under the blessing of Providence within two years, a S. School in every destitute place where it is practicable, throughout the "Valley of the Mississippi," meet with a liberal support $40.000 were immediately subscribed towards the object, in the two cities of N. York & Philadelphia. We are sorry we are obliged to add, what you doubtless already know, that the cause which lies nearest your own hearts, has not lately received that pecuniary encouragement to which it is justly entitled & without which it cannot be adequately sustained. The American board has lately made an appeal to the Christian Public, from which we learn that they have more men — 15 or 20 in all — ready or soon to be ready, to depart for their respective stations, than with their present means they can possibly send. While the receipts of the Board in 1829 were $106,900 & in 1830 $83,000, for the last seven months they have been only $46,000. at which rate the whole year's receipts will amount to $79,000. Still there is no occasion for the friends of the cause to despond. The charities of the country have only been temporally directed into other channels & there can be no doubt that the appeal already referred to, together with the active efforts of individuals; with, under the Divine aid, again secure the cause its appropriate pre-eminence in the hearts, the prayers, & the contributions of Christians

The church in its true character is but one great mission-
-ionary association; & it will not suffer this favourite &
fruitful branch to decay. The reveals of which we have spo-
-ken, have, from the nature of the case, confined the attention
of ministers & people exclusively to their own concerns; but as
soon as they have liberty to look abroad over the world
(as we trust they are beginning to do now,) we are assured
that their hearts will again expand with that comprehen-
-sive benevolence, which embraces the whole family of man
within the range of its sympathies & philanthropic exertions,
& which will entirely impart new vigour & energy to the
great work of evangelising the heathen. We believe, too,
Dear Brethren, that the period is not distant when your
mission & every other will receive powerful accessions.

Not that a large number of those at present in this
or any of our Seminaries, have, to our knowledge, deter-
-mined to devote themselves to this cause (altho. a few amongst
us, 6 or 8, have done so) but we think this opinion is fully
authorised by the present aspect of the world & especially of
our own country, aside from the particular fact that an
increasing number of candidates for the ministry appear
disposed to consider & weigh the claims of the heathen to
their services. We hope at least that this is the case, but we
confess that we have little sense of our obligations to the hea-
-then, compared with the full conviction which it is so
easily for us to feel, of our obligations to our own country-
-men.

We have barely room to express the interest which we
take in the Sandwich Islands's Mission & our joy in Christ on
hearing of its continued & unparalleled prosperity. May the
Spirit of all Grace abide with each one of you & give
you many souls as the seals of your ministry.

Remember us in terms of Christian courtesy & affection to your
respective families. Let us hear from you at your earli-
-est convenience. You will be happy to hear that the pres-
-bytery of Baltimore has lately engaged one foreign missionary & recommend-
-ed a similar step to all the Presbyteries in the Union. Several
already have agreed to support one. & the plan will probably
be adopted by many others. Those Brethren of the mission
who have resided at this institution, will be gratified to hear that
there have been & still are revivals in the several of the little
societies under the charge of the Brethren, in the vicinity of

Princeton – particularly at Rocky Hill. Cherry Valley. Blawenburg. The number of conversions in all of them is about 100. There is also considerable seriousness in this Village now. There have been a few conversions, & 25 or 30 attend the Inquiring meetings.

Should we have an opportunity of sending direct to the S. Islands. we will forward you some pamphlets, Reports &c. with this letter.

Yours in the fellowship of the Gospel.

In behalf of the Society of Inq. on missions

Henry A. Boardman

Cor. Sec.

Copied By

H. A. Boyce

Theol. Sem. Princeton. August 15th 1831

To the Society Inq: Columbia S. Carolina.

Dear Brethren

Your letter of March 22nd has been recd and read before our Society at their meeting. We are gratified to learn from it that a Society has been formed in connexion with your institution on the interesting & important subject of Missions, and that you have placed a just estimate upon this subject by making, by making the Society one of the earliest associations of your infant Seminary.

Our Society has been in existence, & is indeed almost co-eval with the existence of the Seminary. Your proposal to correspond with us harmonizes with our cordial wishes on this point, & we shall be happy at all times to give and receive such communications on Missionary topics as may prove mutualy interesting and profitable.

We fully agree in conceiving it to be the duty of every follower of Christ to be intimately acquainted with the condition of the Heathen. Not only because they are the "things of the Kingdom," & the objects of the prayrs of thousands, but especially, because every one ought to study to know his personal duty on this subject. With what peculiar emphasis does this remark apply to Ministers of the Gospel, & students of Theology in Seminaries.

It seems long to have been the maxim with Ministers, "we will remain at home unless some special Providence calls us to the missionary field." But now this is changing, and the motto will, we hope ere long be "we will obey the last command of our master, & go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." except there is a manifest hindrance or special call to remain in this land of Sabbaths & sanctuary privileges. Brethren, is not the soul of the Heathen as valuable as any other? Oh may the time soon come, when the church shall consider her self as a great Missionary Society, and every member, a life member of that Society

It would doubtless, Brethren, be a blessing to our own land, and we should run no risk of a scarcity of preachers, if every student now in the Theological Seminaries of these United States were to become a foreign Missionary.

Let none make too high an estimate of his abilities, and suppose that he can thus do more good at home. For their is scope in the Missionary field for all the talents which man can command, however erudite (and accomplished he may be provided these things co-exist with an elevated tone of piety. Did Heber, Mary Buckhanan, Vanderkemp, Hall, and others, whose minds were equaly cultivated, and whose powers equaly strong, find a surplus of talents in their possession? No, here is room for the mightiest mind, if sincerely devoted to Christ. Let the strong, the valient, the beautiful in Zion be no longer kept at home.

There is also danger that a man may form too low an estimate of his abilities, and conclude little good among "men benighted." But certainly whosoever he be, who is able to discharge faithfuly the parochial duties, is also qualified to be useful at some station among the Heathen.

It is manifestly the duty of every one to give the subject of his own personal duty to the Heathen, a calm and careful & prayerful consideration - and an early consideration too. Never taking it for granted that he is called to be a Missionary, nor hastily concluding that he ought to spend his life within the walls of Zion.

The subject of the condition of Africans both slaves and free blacks in the U.S. has for some time back elicited a warm interest in our Seminary. We have for some time had in existence, a Society of Inquiry concerning Africans in the U.S. by a letter from Georgia, received 2 or 3

months since, we understand that in the Counties of Liberty Mc Intoish & Bryan, a course has been adopted, which will probably afford some opportunity to those who are sitting in darkness to see the Great light. Some pious Planters have themselves been induced to become teachers. This plan of operation precludes prejudice and disarms opposition, of which there has been little or none in these three Counties, to the religious efforts in behalf of Negroes. It is true that this mode of proceding can succeed only where there a sufficient number of pious Planters, and therefore by this plan alone, (except it be assisted by a revolution in public sentiment on the subject of religiously instructing the Negroes) a great amm-ount of good cannot humanly speaking be affected and many very large portions of shareholding-teritory must remain destitute. But this is an auspicious commencement. On this topic however you are doubtless well informed.

Brethren we cheerfully, and sincerely recipr-ocate your expressions of Christian friendship, and conclude by expressing our wishes for the prosperity of your Society and desiring an interest in your addresses at the throne of Grace.

Yours affectionately in behalf of Soc. Ing.

James Clark C. S.

{ Saml. Brown
Copyist Aug 2nd 1831 }

Theol Seminary Princeton N J
July 30th 1831.

The Society of Inquiry to the
Am. Missionaries at Bombay.

Dear Brethren -

The last communication which we had the pleasure of receiving from you, was a note from Brother Stone dated 13th March 1830 appended to your Annual Statement for the preceding year. We owe you an apology for having permitted it to remain several months unanswered as it wears an appearance of intentional neglect, and although we are sure you will (& justly) attribute our silence to any cause sooner than to that, we must at the same time admit that the fact itself seems to indicate a deficiency of the true Missionary Spirit amongst us. That such a deficiency does exist we cannot deny and we believe there never has been a time since the formation of this Society when a similar remark might not have been made with truth. We do not mean by saying this to justify the present State of things or express our complacence in it. we plead not prescriptive of hereditary right as a sanction to neglect of duty we would rather humble ourselves. Dear Brethren, and lament as doubtless you do that the activity and zeal of our Society with reference to the great object which it aims to promote, are not increased from year to year in a degree corresponding in any measure to the wants of the heathen. the magnitude of the missionary enterprise or the urgent demand for laborers. We believe that the period will arrive when the churches of Christ will become one grand Association for the glorious purpose of evangelizing the world. when the secrets of Christians will be laid at the foot of the cross. when whole families if not even towns

communities will so frequently emigrate to foreign countries as that their departure shall attract no more notice than that of a single Missionary now does; and when our Theol Seminaries will annually send forth four or five men where they no send one who shall esteem it as a sacred privilege to live and die amongst the heathen. This time we are confident is coming. Prophecy foretells it - and the present state of the world confirms the inspired prediction. But while we rejoice in the assured certainty of the ultimate subjugation of all things to "Him whose right it is to reign" and who will yet reign "from the rising to the setting sun" we deplore the lack of zeal which pervades a considerable portion of the church and especially which many of us as individuals are conscious of in regard to the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom amongst the dark places of the earth. You will not infer from this that we take no interest in the cause of Missions. We are fully convinced of its importance we acknowledge that in one way or other it demands and must receive our services - we belong to Christ - and we know not what little to disciples ship we can have unless we are willing to go wherever He shall send us. Still the question of personal duty is a difficult one to decide. We seldom come to the consideration of it divested of prejudice and prejudice is as tardily softened and subdued by grace as natural peculiarities or peculiarities of temper. Our homes and attachments - our pleasant recollections and associations are all here. Near objects obscure those that are remote - a man's hand may conceal the sun from his eyes and in the same way it may often happen that what we believe to be our conscientious decisions are founded on partial and limited views of the question before us. It is true that those who profess to be Pilgrims and Strangers here ought to rise in some good degree above the various influences which regulate or determine the conduct of mere creatures of the world; but it is also true that Christians are still men.

"subject to like passions with other men" and affording every day in their lives and conversation fresh confirmation of the remark that while on earth they are sanctified only in part" We would not however be understood to insinuate that the Missionary Spirit has absolutely declined in this Institution. we believe on the contrary that it has increased within the past year and there is ample encouragement for prayer in our behalf. Dear Brethren in the fact that a number have already placed themselves at the disposal of the American Board, five or six of whom are to leave the Seminary the ensuing Fall.

We desire also to acknowledge with gratitude to God that a new and vigorous impulse seems lately to have been given to this holy cause amongst the churches of our Country. The charities which appropriately belonged to the enterprise of Dor. Missions had been in fact for two years turned into some other channel of benevolent effort. This occasioned an unexpected deficiency in the funds of the American Board for the current year and induced them through the public Journals and otherwise to make an appeal - an animated eloquent - rousing appeal to the Christian Public. The effect of this connected with the personal exertions of the officers of the society, has been not only to augment their funds to such an extent as we hope will enable them to meet all their engagements, but also as we trust to awaken a lively interest in this all important subject amongst the friends of Zion generally.

You will doubtless be gratified to receive an equally favorable account respecting our other great benevolent Associations. - The American Bible Society was never in a more flourishing condition. You will probably remember that in the Spring of 1829 the noble resolution was adopted to supply every destitute Family in the Union with the Bible within three years. It appeared from the proceedings at the Anniversary in May last that although the object contemplated in the resolution had not been fully accomplished yet enough had been done to furnish abundant cause for gratitude to the great Parent of mercies and

to afford an earnest of the speedy completion of the whole work. Thirteen of the States and Territories were nearly or quite supplied - in eight others about three thirds. and in the remainder one half or nearly so of the work was finished.. An Agent of the Society has lately gone to France with a view of ascertaining what can be done toward circulating the Holy Scriptures amongst the population. This simple fact is one in which it would be delightful to stoop and contemplate. Some future Historian will record and generations yet unborn will read that a little band of persecuted outcast pilgrims driven by oppression in the old world to seek a shelter amidst the unexplored forests of America there grew up into a mighty people under the influence of Christian institutions. and while yet a powerful nation bestowed on the Continent which had nearly cast them off the only blessing which could teach its inhabitants the nature of genuine refinement or furnish them with a basis for national liberty or assure them of the reality of a future and eternal state of being. We regret that we cannot pursue Dear Brethren a strain of thought so interesting and which might be made so instructive.

The Tract Society has printed upwards of 6.000.000 of tracts during the past year - The Home Missionary Society has employed 462 Missionaries & Agents within the same period. and the General Assembly's Board about 314 appointments equal to 264 years an equal number. The Temperance Cause is successful throughout every part of our country to a degree unparalleled it is believed in the history of our Philanthropic Societies. The Education Seamen's Friend. Sabbath School and other Associations are all in a flourishing condition. The Am S S Union is making a vigorous and well-sustained effort to establish S Schools in every destitute place in the Western Valley We will if practicable send you an abstract of the Annual reports of the above named Societies. Our limits forbid us to enlarge on their operations. Brother Stone in his note before alluded to requests particular information respecting the Am Bot Society Shd a favorable opportunity offer we will send some printed reports &c on this subject but lest those Shd not come to hand we present the

Following brief abstract. The Soc was formed in 1816 - there are now 16 State 200 Town and County Auxiliaries - Income in 1829 $20.2 - In 1830 $26.073. The first Setters arrived at Montserado in June 1822 - present number there about 2000, wh. is frequently receiving additions. The Soc sustained a great loss in 1828 in the death of Mr Ashman their zealous and indefatigable agent - the soil of Montserado is exceedingly fertile - the climate with proper precautions on the part of the inhabitants, is healthy - They have an organized government, 3 Religious Societies Sabbath and day Schools, a public journal &c. During the year 1830, 315 emigrants arrived there from the U S - on the whole the prospects of the Colony abroad and of the Society at Home are highly flattering.

We have left ourselves but little space to speak of the State of Evangelical Religion in this country. we regret this the less however, as the Brethren who, as we rejoice to hear, have lately arrived at Calcutta, will be able to furnish you with ample information on that and many other subjects. The past year has been rich in blessings. The windows of heaven have not been closed at ~~at~~ all upon us. Hundreds of Revivals have taken place and are still going on in every direction & in all the Evangelical Denominations. May God of his overflowing goodness grant that this season of refreshing may never cease -

The Southern Indians are already suffering much from the cruel and oppressive measures of the Gen and some of the State Governments. - The Missionaries amongst the Cherokees have recently been arrested and some of them imprisoned on the authority of the State of Georgia because they neglected to comply with a requisition made on them to quit the Cherokee Territory within 10 days. We have reason to fear that national sins will be visited with national judgments.

The only interesting political Intelligence we have to communicate is that the country has been thrown into something of a ferment by a recent explosion in Gen Jacksons Cabinet - all the Members resigned and he has formed a new Cabinet composed it is thought of less combustible materials.

The new ministers are Messrs Livingston of La Mc Lane of Del Woodbury of N.H. Cass of Mich and Taney of Maryland

We rejoice to hear, Dear Brethren, as we do thro' Brother Stone's Journal from Dec 1829 to March 1830 published in a late

Missionary Herald. that the prospects of your mission are more encouraging than ever. May the Lord be with you. to sustain comfort and direct you, and above all to crown your ~~to~~ labors with success. We feel deeply interested in the prosperity of your mission. Accept our thanks for the pamphlets you have had the goodness to forward us and be assured they are always welcome. It will afford us sincere pleasure to hear from you at an early date. Meanwhile pray for us. Remember us with Christian affection to all the Brethren & sisters at your station

In behalf of the Soc of Inquiry
Yours in the Fellowship of the Gospel
Henry A. Boardman.

Transcribed
By S Billings for Burroughs—

Aug 10 — Wed Send herewith the 7th 8, 9 & 13th Reports of the Am Col Society also a Statement of Facts—
Added also a note of the Destination of our mess Brethren —

Campbell

Theol Seminary Princeton N.J.
Sept 1st 1831

The "Society of Inquiry" to Messrs
Whiting & Bird at Beyroot, Syria

Dear Brethren

Several months have elapsed, since we had the pleasure of receiving Brother Whitings very acceptable letter of Nov. 9, 1830 — The intervention of one spring vacation, combined with other causes, has prevented an earlier acknowledgement of your kindness in thus opening a correspondence which we trust, will become a source of mutu=al and permanent advantage, — We thank you the more earnestly for your promtitude in writing

because the Brethren who go out from amongst us
to reside in Heathen Lands, are usually rather
dilatory in attending to the claims of the Soci
upon them - Not that they lose their interest
in its prosperity, but that amid the multiplicit
of duties which crowd upon their hands on
first arriving at a mipionary station, they
are apt to lose sight of the great and beneficial
influence which letters from abroad are calculated
to exert on our association, and thro' its members, on
the cause of mipions in the churches. - We need
Brethren, your letters, & your prayers. The best
advocates of the Heathen, are those who "Speak what
they have seen, and testify that which they Know"
the strongest arguments are those which are framed
amidst the moral desolations of Paganism: and the
most awakening and soul stiring voice which eve
ments our ears, is the whisper breathed from some
warm hearted Brother across the ocean, who sits down
amidst the gloomiest exhibitions of human suffering an
depravity which the earth presents to view, to enforc
the ascending command of our Blessed Saviour
How little the extent and binding nature of that
command has been felt by the church hitherto, your
as well as ourselves can testify - We are permitted
to rejoice in the belief that it is beginning to be a
little better understood in our society, as several, sa
six or seven of our Brethren are just about leaving us
for foreign land, and a considerable number besides
are seriously examining the subject with reference
to their personal duty, But we still have reason
to lament that we do not habitually act in rega
to the cause of mipions with a deeper sense of
our solemn responsibilities, that our love to
G is so much - our faith in his promises so
wavering - our efforts so feeble, and our con-
viction of the misery & wants of the Heathen so
inoperative. - We hear the cry of death the destitut
from every direction, and feelings of compassion
are awakened within us; but, while we pray that th
word of life may be sent to them, we are prone
to cling with an invincible tenacity to the comfor
and privileges which we have always enjoyed

The spirit of Him who was rich and for our sakes became poor, ought more fully to reign in all our hearts, even until we should think it all joy if we were counted worthy to suffer for Christ. This we are well assured should be the sentiment of every professed follower of our blessed Master. And we cannot but hope that the period is approaching, when not only in ~~our~~ Theol. Seminaries, but throughout our evangelical churches, the standard of piety will be elevated, and the spiritual meaning better appreciated of many inspired directions and prohibitions concerning personal obligations, which seem now almost wholly to be overlooked. The conduct of a nominal & even of a real believer in Christianity is very much affected by the principles of interpretation he adopts in reading the Bible and it cannot be denied that at the present time in nearly every portion of the Church, a large class of scriptural injunctions such especially as refer to making sacrifices for religion, although too plain to be misunderstood, are nevertheless silently adjudged to be undesigned for practical use. While, however, we regret the prevalence of this, and of many other even worse important errors, we would not withhold our gratitude to God for all the encouragements he has given to us, and to his people every where to continue our prayers and feeble labors.

You have doubtless heard, Dear Brethren, that the past year has been rich in blessings to our American Zion. It has been as the ingathering of the harvest before the year of Jubilee. Revivals were never before so frequent. The Spirit of grace has been poured out in copious abundance on very many of our Villages, large Cities, and Seminaries of Learning. Thousands (50,000 it is estimated) have been added to the Church. The cause of truth has been strengthened from the ranks of its opposers. Vice & infidelity have shrunk before the triumphant followers of the King of Saints: and fresh zeal has been diffused amongst the friends of the gospel. We mean not to intimate that our whole land has become "Immanuel's land" — that the Church is fully awake to its duties — and that all the enemies of religion are subdued. We have no such pleasing intelligence as this to communicate. We mean only to say that Revivals have been multiplied in an unexampled manner, and that the efforts of Christians have been crowned with a success hitherto unknown. In the midst of so many mercies, however, we hope the Church will bear in mind that her dangers are increasing also. It is to be feared that many will be hastily admitted into her communion, who are not entitled to that privilege — That error

ous doctrines may become popular merely because they are claimed to be the Revival doctrines — and that the whole of religion may be made to consist in the excitement of feeling. Still we would put our trust in the Lord, believing that wherever there is a "vine of his own planting" he will water it with the dews of his grace, and throw around it his protecting care.

You will rejoice to hear, Dear Brethren, that all of our great Benevolent Societies are moving onwards with increasing prosperity and efficiency. We might furnish you with the details of their operations, but you have probably already heard the most important items. — We are especially gratified in being able to state that a fresh and vigorous impulse seems lately to have been given to that cause which lies nearest of all to your hearts. The pecuniary affairs of the Board had been for some time in a depressed state. When last Spring they made an appeal on the subject to the friends of missions through the public prints. This was followed up by energetic personal labours on the part of the Secretaries and other agents, and the treasury now presents a different aspect. The deficiency is not wholly supplied, but we trust it soon will be. The following Statement is taken from the last number of the "Herald" — Since Missionaries are so much needed, and since so many are at command, they have resolved to send them out with as little delay as possible, & as nearly as may be in the following proportions, viz" two, including a physician, to Palestine, for a new station — one, with a view to the Armenians of Asia Minor — two for the Greeks of the Levant — five for the East Indies — 6 or 7 including a Physician, for the Sandwich Islands, & the Northern Marquesas, or Washington Islands." (Of the Brethren who have just left or are about to leave this Institution, to go abroad, three are to go to the Sandwich Islands, one to Bombay and one to Palestine.) We do not regard the funds raised by the recent exertions of the Board, as the only or the chief benefit which will result from their appeal to the Christian public, but we hope that the cause of Missions has obtained a stronger hold on the affection of people, and that in future they will remember it

in their contributions & prayers — One measure which is likely to prove very advantageous is that lately adopted by several Presbyteries, of resolving to support, in their distinctive capacity, one or more Foreign Mission-aries

We regret to be obliged to state, that the Missionaries amongst the Georgia Indians, have lately been subject to the most inhuman treatment ever experienced by free citizens in our country, since we existed as a nation — & this for neglecting to obey a tyranical mandate of the Governor to leave the State (in which he includes the Indian Territory) within ten days None of them, have yet been murdered, but they have suffered almost every thing except death American Missionaries have scarcely ever met with such treatment amongst Savages

The Gen. Assembly's Board of Education has lately been reorganized, & Rev Mr Breckinridge of Baltimore appointed Secretary. They have resolved to refuse assistance to no suitable young man who aplies for aid & $10.000 have been raised in Philadelphia to enable them to sustain this resolution. Their plan is to lend money if a loan is preferred; but the obligation to refund will be a tacit and conscientious, not a written and legal one

The Mission cause has lately sustained a great loss in the death of Jer. Evarts Esq; and the Bible Society another in the decease of its venerable President, Col Richd. Varick.

By a remarkable providence (another of our Ex-presidents Presidents) James Monroe, died on the last anniversary of our National Independence

The political elements of our country are like the waves of the sea, always in motion — In consequence of some Family jars, all the Members of Gen Jacksons Cabinet resigned a few months ago and the only matter of regret about it is, that the old Gentlemen did not follow so worthy an example He has formed a new Cabinet, however, of better materials & therefore we live in hope

There has lately been an insurrection of the Slaves in Southampton county Va. They rose to the number of two or three hundred during the absence of many of their Masters from home, and inhumanly butchered from 50 to a 100 persons

Several whole families were entirely cut off. At the latest accounts the insurgents had been dispersed, and many of them killed.

The Bible Society of New Jersey met on tuesday last, and unanimously ~~adopted~~ resolved "to supply the Sandwich Islands with the Scriptures, or with such portions of them as may be translated." This noble example will doubtlys be followed by other societies. It might be remarked here, that our own Country is now very nearly supplied with Bibles —

Our Seminary has about 160 Students. Within the past six months there have been interesting Revivals in several of the Societies around Princeton, under the care of the Brethren. In the four societies of Cherry Valley, Rocky Hill, Blawnburgh, & Stoutsburgh, there are believed to have been about 200 conversions —

In conclusion, Dear Brethren, we commend you to the blessing of God & the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ — praying that He will keep you in all your ways, and crown your labors with abundant success — Let us hear from you again at your earliest convenience —

In behalf of the Soc. of Enquiry
Yours in Xtian fellowship
Henry A. Boardman

Princeton Theological Seminary. March 16. 1839

Revd. Dr. John Philip.

Dear Sir

Trusting to your love for the cause of our common Lord, & to that communion of feeling which exist among all the members of his body, & especially to your known devotedness to the work of evangelizing the world by missionary exertions: I address you in behalf of the "Society of Inquiry on Missions" in this Institution.

This Society has been in existence for many years for the express purpose of collecting information from all parts of the world, relative to the condition, habits, manners of unchristianized nations, & particularly concerning the extent, & success of missionary operations in all parts, & of every name. Not as a matter of mere speculation, and to gratify curiosity, but for our own use, to enable us to judge of the wants of the world, and also to spread it before the Public, by means of the "Press" & thus awaken an interest on the subject in all the friends of Zion throughout our Land. We feel in some measure, tho' far too little, the solemn obligation which rests on Church, & on us as individuals to obey the last command of our ascended Lord, to preach the Gospel to every people, to proclaim the Sun of righteousness to the nations sitting in darkness, to herald the offers of salvation to perishing millions. ——

As I remarked above, we feel it a personal duty for some of us to become Missionaries. Accordingly between thirty and forty from the one hundred and twenty Candidates for the ministry collected here, I trust are honestly inquiring on the subject of personal duty, & have decided to become Missionaries, and the question with them is, Where shall we go? what field shall we enter?

In order to an enlightened answer, we need more facts, for we are very ignorant in relation

to many parts of the extensive field. To supply this deficiency our Society has maintained a correspondence with stations & Missionaries in almost every part of the world. But as often happens, the portion having peculiar claims on our earliest attention, has been overlooked (I mean Africa) and the object of this communication is to supply this deficiency, atone for our neglect, and to acquire some information concerning the "hundred millions of that degraded & oppressed race. —

There is throughout our happy Country, a breaking up of the "great deep" of prejudice against Negroes and on the subject of slavery, & we fondly hope publick opinion is coming over to the side of justice and Christianity. This is the case in some parts of the U.S. where six months ago, the subject could not be mentioned with safety, now all talk of it freely. We now indulge the hope that in a few years the long enslaved sons of Africa, will be liberated and sent home to the land of their Fathers, carrying the comforts of civilization, & the blessings of a free Government, and the light of Christianity. The Legislature of the oldest state in the Union, (Virginia) aroused by the massacre of about seventy whites in an insurrection of the slaves last summer, has lately appropriated $30.000 for this year and $90.000 for next year to transport such free Blacks and liberated slaves as are willing to go to some part of Africa, probably to our flourishing Colony at Liberia. Other Legislatures are now debating the subject, and will probably follow the example. In the mean time some of us who expect soon to enter the ministry, and have resolved to spend our lives in Missions, are turning our eyes with deep interest towards that Continent.

All the Followers of Christ are bound to send divine truth to the ignorant Ethiopian. But the debt which we owe is peculiar & great. We live under a Government which has long sanctioned their slavery. We by the earnings of their hard toil, have been supported and enriched. Our Forefathers and Countrymen have stolen thousands from their native land, and we are partakers of their guilt, unless some adequate return be made. —

Africa suitable to such complicated wrongs can be done, but to send healing streams of salvation to all her numerous Tribes. Rev. Dear Sir, can you will you spare time from your many pressing duties to communicate such information as may appear to you interesting and useful. Your communication will be useful in proportion to the number and minuteness of the facts in it. As to all real purposes we may be considered in total ignorance of S. Africa, and especially of the region North of Lattakoo. To enable you more readily and exactly to meet our views & wants, subjoined are a few questions indicating the kind of information needed. — Do the Natives manifest a willingness to learn truth? What their capacity to understand? The success of past efforts? What prospects of future success? Is the Govt now willing to countenance missionary labours? Have you any missionary stations North of Lattakoo? Are the Tribes N. of Lattakoo numerous? Are they willing to receive Missionaries? Is there any field opened there for Miss.. from America? Some among us have turned their attention to that part of S. Africa when Mr. Clapperton travelled. If you can give us any fact, or even your opinion about that field, as encouraging Missionary exertions it would be very acceptable. In conducting Missions in A. has it been found best for the Missionaries to conform to the customs of the Natives? in dress or manner of life? Is most dependance to be placed on Schools or on preaching the simple Gospel truths?

You will perceive, Sir, how ignorant we are & the kind of knowledge we want. Of course your remarks need not be confined to these questions, as we might ask many more equally interesting. Let us entreat you, if paramount duties do not forbid, to send us a long letter such as you would address to your own son to prepare him for that field of labour. An early reply, may I say, an immediate answer is important; as some of our number will in a few months be prepared to go where Providence shall open the way. If no direct opportunity offers to send to America, a letter will come speedily by way of England - & it would be better for us, for it to come that way than to be delayed. ——

Permit us to express the lively sympathy experienced by us in the unjust persecution, and imprisonment suffered by you, & also to mingle our rejoicing, and thanksgiving, that the Lord has disappointed the Adversary, and delivered his Servant- "They that will live godly shall suffer persecution-" "The servant is not greater than his Lord". We trust and pray, that God will long spare you to labour in elevating the degraded, oppressed Hottentot. You will scarcely expect to learn that two Missionaries in Georgia, one of the Southern states, have been sent to the Penitentiary for four years, for the only reason that they refused to acknowledge the authority of that state over the Indian lands where they lived.

But it is even so, yet thanks to God the Supreme Court have had firmness enough to reverse the decision in the face of the Geo. Legislature, & it remains to be seen whether they will submit to its decision.—

It is the most fearful time our Country has ever had. Nevertheless, the Lord reigneth let the earth rejoice-.

You will be pleased, doubtless, to learn some particulars of the wonderful work of God's Spirit now progressing in our Land. It is indeed a day of the right hand of the Lord. For many years past many of the Churches have enjoyed "Revivals of religion"- But about eighteen months ago, they began to be more General and powerful, and have entered into every State, and almost into every County, and in one or two States into almost every town-. I will quote a small paragraph from one of the weekly news-papers- "It is estimated that within five months from the first of January 1831 a special religious interest was felt in scarcely less than fifteen hundred towns; and that more than fifty thousands persons professed to have become partakers of the blessing of salvation through Jesus Christ. From 300 to 400 of these are members of our various Colleges Men of all ranks, and opinions have participated in this work. Statesmen, Lawyers, Judges, Infidels, high and low, have come to God's people with the cry "what shall I do to be saved? There has been little of that excitement of animal passions sometimes improperly named enthusiasm. Most of the revivals have commenced at protracted meetings. There are seasons set apart

by a single Church to hold continued meetings some days, commonly commencing on Friday & ending Monday evening. At these meetings Ministers from a distance are invited to attend and assist. The exercises are every day much like the Sabbath, preaching morning, afternoon, and evening. and prayermeeting between meetings. The preaching most blest has been a clear exhibition of the Law, and the sinners responsibility, his obligation to repent immediately, and his need of the Spirits aid. At some of these meetings the feelings have become so intense that the meetings have been protracted from day to day, for 10 or 15 days, the attention increasing all the time. After the sermon, it has been common to invite the awakened to stay for conversation, after others had gone, or to go to a session room, or in some cases to come into the aisle of the Church, when large numbers would at once go out, and thus take one step towards the "Wicket Gate" of Bunyans Pilgrim. I have seen on such occasions, sometimes 10 arise, sometimes 500, & have heard of as many as 1000 desiring an interest in the Prayers of Christians. Such seasons are indeed refreshing. They strengthen and purify Zion. On such occasions many persons of religion have given up their former hope, and began to live new lives. In an instance, only two or three weeks ago in a neighbouring town the Pastor and nearly all his people openly confessed their lukewarmness, and entered into a covenant to live holier. And the Christian publick begins to feel its duty. As a consequence, we have two Edn societies pledged to sustain every suitable young man desiring to enter the Ministry, and yet unable to educate themselves, these societies are well sustained, as are also most of our benevolent Societies.

Yet the "millennium" is not here. On every hand we find vice and Infidelity. The enemy seems to be more active than ever. Infidels distribute their blasphemous productions every where. The R. Catholicks also are straining every nerve, to lay a broad foundation for the Pope in this Republick. The contention now between truth and error is strong, and had we not the promise of God would almost fail—

The multitudes of the irreligious of Europe, who are inundating us, impede the progress of piety much: for they are many of them rank Infidels.

But the effects of our revivals have been to more onward every good work. The cause of Temperence is steadily progressing: you have, doubtless, heard of this.

It is simply the people of one neighbourhood forming themselves into a Society - and signing the constitution - the main article of which is "We pledge ourselves never to use, or offer to others any Ardent Spirits, except as a medicine." This cause began 6 years ago. Now there are 8,000 Societies, 800,000 members having under their influence 1,000,000 persons, who abstain entirely from ardent Spirits. 3000 Merchants have given up the traffick - 1000 distilleries stopped. 9,000 Drunkards have abstained for a while, and 2000 have been wholly reclaimed, and are now sober men. In one town where there were 16 distilleries, there are now but 2, & they sell less than they did for

Among 1,000000 more have license to sell it, except keepers of publick houses, & from more than 100 publick houses it is excluded. But one of the most wonderful facts connected with this cause, is that revivals of religion seemed to follow the establishment of Temp. Societies through whole regions of the country, and those persons & societies which were most active, in them were most blessed. - - -

In one town in Maine with a popn of 1,000 the quantity of ardent Spirits used annually was 10,000 gallons, sold by 17 retailers, licensed to sell it. Now there are no retailers, and not more than 200 gallons are used in the town. This will convey some idea of the chage going on among us.

Had I room I could relate many more facts of a similar nature - one or two are so interesting I can not refrain from mentioning them. This reformation extends to the Soldiers and Sailors. - - -

At many of Military Stations Temp. Societies are formed, and little Spirits is drank. Some ships of war have done without it, & 400 Merchants vessels have sailed from one port - Boston, without any spirituous liquor and no difficulty is found in hiring Sailors on such terms. The amount of ard. Spts. consumed is rapidly di

The amount of Foreign Spirits imported since 1824-1831 from 5,985,047 gallons to 3/4. Domestic liquors have diminished also. inspected in the city of N.York, was in 1828. 11[illegible] in 1831 less than 70,000 casks. You will rejoice & wonder at these results of so simple a plan; can it not be introduced among the hottentots? and at the Cape? Our Missionaries at the Sandwich Islands have introduced it there, and have a society of ~~1000~~ 1100 members. The King has made it penal to sell Liquors, one man was fined $200 for selling one quart, it being considered a publick pest. — —

The Bible Society has nearly completed the work of supplying every family in the U.S. with a Bible. It has now turned its attention to foreign fields, and lately voted $5000 to Sandwich Islands $10,000 to Greece, $5000 to Bombay &c. The Tract Society is prospering. Last year it printed 1,768,000 pages of tracts, and the plan of monthly distribution is becoming more prevalent. This Society is now endeavoring to raise $30,000 to spend in printing tracts for the Heathen. The Sabbath school system flourishes. The increase of the number of scholars is from 50,000 to 100,000 annually. They now number 10,000 schools, 80, or 90,000 Teachers, and 800,000 scholars. Large numbers of these are in Bible classes, and many both Teachers and scholars have been subjects of the revivals. The A. B. C. F. Missions, have received more funds, and sent out more Missionaries this year than any previous year. But they have to mourn the loss of two active Cor. Secretaries, Mr. Evarts, and Dr. Cornelius. The subject of Missions is obtaining increased interest, & especially among candidates for the Ministry. Dear Sir, I have filled a long sheet with some of the numerous facts occurring here. With sincere respect, I remain yours. — — — — — — — —

John B. Pinney
Cor. Secretary

Copied by
John B. Capels.

Theological Seminary Princeton
13 March 1839.

Rev Jonas King
Dear Sir

By a new arrangment in our "Society of Inquiry on Missions &c" devoting themselves into committees on various important subjects, the correspondence with Foreign Missionaries has fallen into the hands of a few brethren specially interested in it, and we hope for the future that a more regular & important correspondence will be the result—

Permitted to address you sir, as their organ you will allow me unreservedly to make such inquiries, solicit such information and communicate such facts as may appear of special interest— I have a desire sir, as great me (and I hope you will write as though it were participated in by many brethren) to know accurately the prospects of Greece— whether such an opening will be presented in a year or two as to render it expedient for any of us to turn our eyes thitherward— whether missionaries could have access to the people— to preach to them— instruct them unmolested— whether missionary stations could be formed in some of those large towns hallowed or endeared choice grounds by so many recollections— what are the prospects of the Mars Hill College? whether in fine you could advise and wish some of us particularly to direct our attention to Greece as a missionary field. I could wish to know too sir, whether the circumstances of Greece, and the efforts of our episcopal brethren are such as to render it really important that that field should in a great measure be given into their hands— and one more question. Whether if the Athenean College should commence its operations there ought to be American professors— and whether this would afford an opportunity for extensive usefulness. There might be circumstances in the cases of some who have devoted themselves to the mission work preventing them, however their hearts might feel, from going into wider parts of the field which would render information on these subjects to them of interest and importance.

One country in the East has struck the minds of one or two brethren as a missionary field, with some force, though for want of information the feeling is rather vague. Arabia, particularly Arabia Felix. Could you impart to us any information to direct "inquiries" in this matter? The idea was something like this— A journey from Jerusalem, or some place in Egypt to Mecca thence down the Red Sea to Mocha for the purpose of exploring